

## Ward 6 Staff



Steve Kozachik  
Council Member



Ann Charles



Teresa Smith



Bonnie Medler



Diana Amado



Molly Thrasher



# Ward 6 - Newsletter

## Tucson First

June 27, 2012



Ward 6 is having a baby. We've given Teresa the responsibility of carrying it for us, and on about New Year's Day of 2013, she's due to deliver. We're all thrilled for her and Keith and wish her a healthy pregnancy leading up to the big day.



In case you've been out of town – the UA put the cap on its first season out at Hi Corbett by winning a 4<sup>th</sup> National Championship. The 'Cats went 10-0 during the CWS, the only team to ever accomplish that. Several thousand fans greeted the team in McKale on Tuesday for their triumphant return from Omaha. Congratulations to Coach Lopez, the team and staff. And thanks go out to you in the community who supported the team throughout the season out at our new home. 2013 season tickets are available...621.CATS.

### Broadway Citizen's Task Force

On Wednesday, June 20<sup>th</sup> the TDOT Broadway project team held the kick-off meeting with the Citizen's Task Force that was selected to guide the design process of the corridor. There are 13 citizen members of that task force who represent planners, business operators, alternate mode advocates, the disabled community and residents from both the north and south sides of Broadway. Also in attendance were a couple of hundred concerned citizens.

The meeting was introduced by project manager Jenn Burdick. Jenn has been integral in advancing the conversation between me, the RTA, TDOT and the citizen's groups who have expressed their concerns over the project as planned.

Following introductory remarks, the group broke into small groups to address a few specific issues related to the project. The questions and a summary of the feedback are:

- a. What should be preserved along the corridor / what is valued?
  - Historic buildings



### 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

- Small local businesses
  - Community oriented spaces
  - Scale of the roadway / existing cross-width
  - Scale and proportion of existing buildings
  - Variety of businesses
  - Bike/walk/transit accessibility
- b. What should be changed?
- Traffic improvements – signals, turn lanes, bus pullouts, speed management, focus on bottlenecks
  - Pedestrian/bike and transit improvements
  - Continuous sidewalks
  - There were diverse opinions related to whether or not to move towards light rail
  - Landscaping needs improvement
  - Pedestrian lighting needs improvement
  - Create a better environment for businesses to thrive
- c. Fears
- Negative effect on businesses and neighborhoods
  - Too much pavement and traffic – no sense of place
  - Loss of current character
  - Loss of property value
  - City won't listen to concerns
  - Won't be creative enough
- d. Hopes
- Better pedestrian environment and safety
  - Stop current uncertainty
  - Enhance existing character with landscape improvements
  - Support alternate modes of travel
  - Look for other communities for successful and creative solutions and make them unique to Tucson

So, good turn out. Good input. Good opportunity to set a template for discussions on other RTA projects around town in ways that match budget with current and anticipated needs – and how we want to grow as a community.

### Grant Road Overlay

The following day Karin and I hosted a meeting with several of the neighborhood groups who represent the west end of the Grant Road RTA project – Oracle up to about Tucson Blvd. The alignment for widening Grant has been set (unlike that for Broadway) but what is in play now is how to engage the property owners in creative conceptual design in ways that respect budget, property values, roadway functionality, and the input offered by stakeholders.

The meeting was chaired by Kaneen Advertising, one of the prime consultants on the project. Also in attendance were representatives from the Planning Center and the City. We had a good discussion and I'd say everybody came away from the meeting pretty clear



### Important Phone Numbers

Senator John  
McCain (R)  
520-670-6334

Senator Jon Kyl (R)  
520-575-8633

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

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

Governor Janice  
Brewer (R)  
Governor of Arizona  
602-542-4331

Toll free:  
1-800-253-0883

State Legislators

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

Mayor Jonathan  
Rothschild  
791-4201

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

that respecting community input is going to be a key to how well this planning process advances. That's not to say that any one person or group has a 'black bean veto' on design considerations. What it does mean though is that there exists a variety of voices and interests that are going to have to be melded into the discussion over the next several months.

Some of the issues raised that will form the basis of further changes to the initial Overlay Draft that was produced are:

- Protecting the interests of established neighborhoods and neighborhood plans
- Respecting the legitimate development rights of private property owners along the corridor
- Integrating into the design softening elements to buffer commercial from residential
- Incorporating capacity for future transit expansion
- Avoiding a process that will result in ghost corridor sections as businesses exit years ahead of project construction
- Focus on intersection improvements as a way to maintain efficient travel

I've noted before that the Broadway expansion discussion, and the extent to which consideration is given to stakeholder input as the process evolves, will serve as a template for other roadway projects in the RTA package. I believe the two nights' meetings demonstrated a willingness on the part of the project management to listen and try to incorporate the input they're hearing from those who will be most directly impacted by the projects (Broadway/Grant).

The planning for these two projects will be an extensive process. I believe that based on what happened this week between the taxpayers and the project teams, they're both headed in the right direction at this time.

### Arizona Stadium

The month of May was very productive in the Arizona Stadium work. These two aerials show how far we came in that 30 day time frame

May aerial view:



June aerial view:



Of particular note is how the middle of the field was cleared during May. That is in preparation for our beginning to lay sod on July 4<sup>th</sup>. The timing is such that if we miss that date,

the grass will not have enough time to germinate and get stabilized before the team starts working out on it in August. It's tight, but the end result is going to be good for the players.

As for the construction – we're finally going vertical. That makes it more gratifying from a project management standpoint.

### Scrap Metal Theft



That's the sort of signage we need to encourage at scrap metal dealers.

A group of local business operators and home owners have formed a task force to discuss the issue of scrap metal theft. They held their first meeting this week, and plan on follow up sessions. Their plan is to look at the various aspects of the issue and put together a report for TPD and M&C to review. This is very similar to the neighborhood graffiti task force that is meeting at the Ward 6 office and reviewing the ins-and-outs of that community problem.

The task force will identify offenders. Those will include drug addicts, organized dealers and simply opportunistic petty thieves. They'll identify targets. Those will include vacant and foreclosed properties, construction sites, playgrounds, taverns, churches, cemeteries and scrap metal dealers themselves. It'll also include homes (aluminum gutters, water meters, etc.).

This is a multi-million dollar problem City-wide. No property owner and no taxpayer is exempt from the costs. While TPD already has an operational plan dedicated to addressing this issue, it'll take a focused community effort to make a significant dent in the problem.

A few ideas offered to protect yourself from being a victim are things such as fencing, lighting, video surveillance, storage facilities on site and generally hardening the target to make it more difficult for the thief to take advantage of your property.

The Ward 6 office is involved with the task force and we'll be continuing to share their findings.

### Green Business Program

We've all heard the phrase "I'm from the government, and I'm here to help." Well, in the case of the Green Business Program, it's true.

The program is run out of the City's Office of Conservation and Sustainable Development. Leslie Ethan and Jeff Sales are spearheading the work.

The City was the recipient of Federal Grant money that is in a "use it or lose it" category. The money is to be spent on working with businesses in identifying areas in which they

can make operational or structural changes that will yield cost savings in terms of energy consumption. It will cost nothing to participate - except some time spent with Leslie and Jeff's staff looking at various elements of your business operations.

The short description of the program is that you give some background information, the City conducts an energy audit based on what you provide and then makes suggestions as to ways you can save energy, and by extension reduce your cost of doing business. There's no downside to participating.

If you'd like more information on the program, give Bonnie a call at the Ward office - or call the OCSD folks at the City directly @ 791.6937.

### **LeFleur French Market**

Welcome to another new business that is opening up downtown. LeFleur is going to share space in the Historic Depot, taking on just over 1,000 sq/ft. The product offering is landscapes and fresh floral – a good addition to the already existing mixed use that is operating in other parts of the Depot.

As the streetcar construction causes disruptions to all of the businesses along 4th Avenue and into the downtown core, it's important to continue to support them throughout each phase of the work. The folks at LeFleur are the most recent who are being forward looking and anticipating good things to come once the work is done. And from the City's perspective, we're activating some vacant space, at market lease rates. It's all good - stop in and show your support.

### **Pet Poisons**

If you followed my campaign, and the first couple of years of service, you know that I'm an animal lover. I recently heard an interview on the radio the content of which I wanted to share related to common place items that are potentially harmful to your pet. Some of them surprised me.

1. Sugarless chewing gum and breath mints – many brands contain xylitol, a sweetener that is toxic to dogs. Some sugarless mints, flavored multivitamins, toothpastes, and mouthwashes may also be made with xylitol. When it's ingested, even small amounts of xylitol can result in a life-threatening and rapid drop in blood sugar.
2. Human medications – these include such common items as non-steroidal anti-inflammatories, acetaminophen, and antidepressants. All of these can cause serious harm to dogs and cats when ingested. Of all medications, antidepressants account for the highest number of calls to Pet Poison Helpline. And how many of us carry them around in a small vial that can be chewed through by your pet.
3. Asthma Inhalers - Asthma inhalers often contain concentrated doses of drugs that can kill your pet. Each inhaler often contains 200 doses in one vial. When dogs chew into them, they are exposed to massive amounts of the drugs all at once. This can lead to severe poisoning, resulting in life-threatening heart arrhythmias, agitation, vomiting, collapse, and death.
4. Cigarettes - As few as three cigarettes can be fatal to a small dog, depending on the "strength" or "lightness" of the cigarettes. Cigarettes, chewing tobacco, and even smoking cessation gums contain nicotine, which is toxic to dogs and cats. Nicotine poisoning causes clinical signs rapidly — in as short as 15 minutes — and can be

fatal if not treated.

5. Hand Sanitizer - Many hand sanitizers contain high concentrations of alcohol — some are nearly 100 percent alcohol! When a dog chews and ingests a small bottle of hand sanitizer, it can have the same effect as a shot of hard liquor. Signs of alcohol poisoning include a severe drop in blood sugar, incoordination, a drop in body temperature, neurological depression, coma, and death.

That's some pretty common stuff – I share it because dogs have a tendency to enjoy chewing “mom's purse.”

### **Rio Nuevo**

"Those who forget the past are doomed to repeat it" is a quote attributed to George Santayana, in *The Life of Reason*. He also said “The wisest mind has something yet to learn.” We have a chance to avoid the first and embrace the second with the new Rio Nuevo Board.

The history of Rio Nuevo is all too familiar: quietly drawn up deals, poor public disclosure, sloppy records keeping, and most recently political interference from Phoenix. To the extent that we remember how we messed this thing up and change direction now, we have a chance to make downtown redevelopment work.

On Tuesday I asked for an agenda item to answer certain questions posed by the recently released audit. I believe that the audit team should have brought their questions to the City staff and looked for answers prior to publicly releasing what generated more suspicion and shock-appeal than answers. But they didn't and so I wanted staff to give us some idea as to the process they'll engage in responding.

Some of the issues of concern are:

Did the City turn over all of the documents related to Rio, or were some withheld? From what we heard on Tuesday, it appears that the request for information was so broadly stated that the City made a best effort to be responsive, but that resulted in gaps in what was provided. The result was the inability of the auditor to connect project costs with accurate documentation to validate their accuracy.

Do the records exist to validate all costs reported? Doubtful. Why not? Because the City and the early Rio Board were nonchalant in how they made decisions, retained records and memorialized deals. The result will more than likely be that in some cases all of the dots will never be connected because there is no paper trail. How all of that is sorted out will be up to the legal folks.

In cases where the numbers don't add up and the City cannot produce adequate documentation, what will be the remedy? That's going to be up to the A.G. and the courts to determine. And it'll be up to the current Rio Board and City to work through. That's exactly where we need to remember the past, and not repeat the mistakes that were made. It's where wisdom and being willing to learn from the past will be key.

I have reported to you that unless we change the wording in the legislation by which the 2009 Rio Board was appointed, we cannot invest money in anything but the TCC and a convention center hotel. I have also shared that the City and Rio had agreed on terms for moving the relationship forward, only to be scuttled by political interference. I have pro-

posed that jointly meeting – in public – and working on legislative language, and new term sheets would be a good step for the City and the new Rio Board to take.

In public. No quiet deals. Everything out in the open. If we haven't learned those lessons, we don't deserve the responsibility of handling your money. I've shared those thoughts with some of the Rio members and some members of staff and council. I'm hopeful.

### **SB1070**

When the Supreme Court this week announced its decision on the Arizona Immigration Bill, it caused the mixed reaction that was predictable.

First – I have complete confidence in the ethics and professionalism of the Tucson Police Department. Our City Manager was a top-cop for a decade, and our current Chief is an honorable guy. I believe they will put into place policies that respect basic rights.

When SB1070 was first adopted, I opposed it because I considered it a shifting of Federal immigration responsibilities onto local law enforcement. I still do. At the time, I voted against entering into litigation against the State on the issue because lawsuits had already been filed. But as to the Bill itself, I was opposed.

The Supreme Court validated that opposition, with the exception of the provision that causes local law enforcement to have to detain suspects when there is reasonable suspicion to suspect they're here illegally. Formerly when that suspicion occurred, TPD would contact Border Patrol and turn the suspect over to that Federal Agency for verification of residency. Now that relationship is severed and TPD must detain and try to contact DHS to verify the person's status. That has the potential of costing the City over \$10M annually if DHS is either tardy, or simply refuses to "take our call." That's an issue for me. It also has the potential of detaining people for extended periods of time without merit. That's a civil rights issue for me. And it has the potential for litigation regardless of what we do; we catch and release/ somebody will sue. We detain without merit/ somebody will sue. The Bill is poorly crafted and ill-conceived.

And because the determination of "reasonable suspicion" is vague, it potentially opens the door to abuse – I'm thinking of Maricopa County.

For example:

*"Every chance I can get to take action on my own without turning them over to ICE, I do."*  
– Sherriff Joe Arpaio SOURCE: *Outside the Beltway - 1 week ago*

This is a state-wide policy, not just relevant to Tucson and Southern Arizona.

Term after term our legislature cries foul when the Federal Government steps into what is viewed as "States rights" issues. That 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment purity disappears when it comes to exerting State authority over city and county issues, or as we now see usurping Federal authority in the area of immigration. One thing proponents and opponents can agree on is that the issue is front-burner and hopefully Congress can finally come up with creative solutions to a very complex issue. In the meantime, we'll be paying attorney's to sort out the interpretations of yet another poorly crafted bill coming from the State.

On March 20<sup>th</sup> I put the text of the Arizona Accord into the newsletter. I'll share it again as a reminder that there are people in the wider community who are still working towards unifying, not divisive ways to handle the border issues:

## THE ARIZONA ACCORD

### A DECLARATION OF FIVE PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE ARIZONA'S IMMIGRATION DISCUSSION

**FEDERAL SOLUTIONS** Immigration is a federal policy issue between the U.S. Government & other countries, not Arizona and other countries. We urge Arizona's congressional delegation, and others, to lead efforts to strengthen federal laws and protect our national borders. We urge state leaders to adopt reasonable policies addressing immigrants in Arizona.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT** We respect the rule of law & support law enforcement's professional judgment and discretion. Local law enforcement resources should focus on criminal activities, not civil violations of federal code.

**FAMILIES** Strong families are the foundation of successful communities. We oppose policies that would unnecessarily separate families. We champion policies that support families and improve the health, education and well-being of all Arizona children.

**ECONOMY** Arizona is best served by a free-market philosophy that maximizes individual freedom and opportunity. We acknowledge the economic role immigrants play as workers and taxpayers. Arizona's immigration policies must reaffirm our global reputation as a welcoming and business-friendly state.

**A FREE SOCIETY** Immigrants are integrated into communities across Arizona. We must adopt a humane approach to this reality, reflecting our unique culture, history & spirit of inclusion. The way we treat immigrants will say more about us as a free society and less about our immigrant neighbors. Arizona should always be a place that welcomes people of goodwill.

### **Gadsden**

The City has a development and real estate purchase agreement with the Gadsden Company for the sale and development of just over 14 acres of land on the west side of the freeway. The agreement was broken into four phases, each with its own set of deliverables that have to be met before the builder can move into the next phase.

Several amendments and changes to the terms of the agreement have been made since the agreement was first signed back in 2008. The changes were adopted in the spirit of keeping the project whole in the midst of a down economy. And yet, at some point, a deal's a deal and the developer has to fulfill obligations or the property needs to go back on the market.

On Tuesday we were to have had a discussion of the status of the Gadsden agreement. There was legitimate concern that M&C had not received sufficient background material, so the item was "continued" until July 10<sup>th</sup>. The issues will be the same then as they are now. Last year the M&C made it clear to staff that any amendments to the development agreement from here forward are to only clear up possible ambiguities, and not to cut more deals to extend or change the terms. All we've heard is that having streetcar stops alongside parcels of land would spur development. Now we have two "stops" adjacent to the Gadsden land and it's time to test that promise.

I'm hopeful that the original group is successful in meeting their obligations and can bring up out of the ground some of the planned development. I've seen the eye-candy and the concepts are wonderful. But at some point it comes time to recognize that they may have bitten off more than they can chew – not a fault or criticism of the guys involved, but a function of over-extension and bad timing. It's also incumbent on the City to meet all of its deliverables so the Gadsden guys have a fair shot at hitting their marks. It all works together.

In May of next year there are certain elements of the project that are required to have been completed. Some has to do with purchase of land from the City, funding of the streetcar, construction of “for sale” homes and other infrastructure issues. It'd be great if we can hit on all cylinders between now and then and make the deal work. But we can't do any more extensions and accommodations. We owe it to the taxpayers to cut bait and recast if this group isn't able to get it done. We'll have a full discussion of the item on July 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Road Bonds**

Finally, we voted to advance to the ballot a bond question that will be specifically related to road repair. We'll finalize the specific language later in the summer, but we made it clear that there may be no question as to where the money will be spent, that there will be an oversight committee watching to make certain the money goes where it belongs, and that TDOT will decide where, when and how the roads involved will be repaired. It's not going to be a little for me, a little for you, a little for somebody else. We will identify the trouble spots and fix those.

The council decided on the \$100M figure over a 5 year term. As I've noted before, that will not get to all of the problem areas, but it's a serious start and a statement that we agree with the prevailing voices that repairing our transit corridors has to be job 1 for this governing body.

I'll close with this. I get the calls from people who oppose the bonds saying that we need to find another way. The magnitude of the problem is immense. I would love to hear concrete and realistic suggestions from those who do not plan on supporting the bond proposal or from those who do plan on supporting it. If you've got something in mind that will yield a sustainable annual sum of in the \$20M range, send it along. I think all of us on the council will listen and consider creative ideas.

Sincerely,



Steve Kozachik  
Council Member, Ward 6

## 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 . . .

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

Friday, June 29 and Saturday, June 30, 7:30pm. "American Graffiti"

Sunday, July 1, 7:30pm. "Lyle Lovett".

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

### Ongoing . . . .

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

Ongoing exhibition, Opening Saturday, June 16 and ending September 23:

"100 Years 100 Ranchers: Spirit of the West"

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

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

Current exhibition: **The AIR Show**

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 June 2 and runs until July 29

"Fundamental Skills"

<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](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)

## Other Community Events

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

Wednesday, June 27, 7:30pm. "I Wish"

Thursday, June 28, 7:30pm. "Steve Jobs: The Lost Interview"

**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 South-west American Indian basketry (over 25,000 pieces). Visit [www.statemuseum.arizona.edu](http://www.statemuseum.arizona.edu) for more information.

**UA Mineral Museum – Ongoing**

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

**Flandrau Science Center**

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

**Main Gate Square Friday Night Live – Jazz Summer Concert Series**

On select Friday's this summer, discover (or rediscover) Main Gate Square through the Jazz Summer Concert Series. Concerts begin at 7:00 in the Geronimo Plaza Courtyard and admission is free. Please visit [http://saaca.org/Main\\_Gate\\_Square.html](http://saaca.org/Main_Gate_Square.html) for more information and listing of bands and restaurants.



Cinema La Placita Outdoor Film Series  
presents "Goldfinger"  
on Thursday, June 27 at 7:30 p.m.  
To view full schedule visit:  
<http://www.cinemataplacita.com/>



# 49th Annual 4th of July Parade & Pancake Breakfast

Wednesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>

Pancake Breakfast 7:00-8:00AM

3412 E Fairmount (on the parade route)

\$3.00-Pancakes/Bacon/Juice

PARADE Registration: 8:30AM

PARADE begins: 9:00AM



Parade Route: Camden & Palo Verde, East on Camden to Richey, South to Fairmount, West to Jones, and return to staging area.



**Volunteers & Donations Needed!**

**Please Call Sally 741-0849**

More Info

[Paloverdena.org](http://Paloverdena.org)

