

Ward 6 Staff



Steve Kozachik
Council Member



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Ward 6 – Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 14, 2011

A Message from Steve

Last term the State Legislature passed HB2500 – essentially a free pass for posting political signs in the Rights of Way around the City. All of us on the Council were opposed to the new law, but it was preemptive and so we had to comply.

However, written into the legislation is the following language:

30. THE SIGN CONTAINS THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE CANDIDATE OR

31. CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE CONTACT PERSON.

As many of you know, I jog and bike around town and in my travels I'm noticing that most of the current candidates' signs do not have this information. Therefore, they are not in compliance with the new law. I would ask each campaign to correct the violation. The City does not have the staff to go out and police these signs.

Next year's elections will fall under the same rules – candidates should anticipate the need to place this information on their signs.

The Alvernon-Grant Initiative Project includes Palo Verde, Dodge/Flower, Garden District, and Oak Flower neighborhoods. It has been active for the past four years, primarily focusing on eliminating crime from the four neighborhood areas. It has been generally successful. Recently a new effort was begun in the Palo Verde neighborhood; addressing code violations, even to the point of writing up Notices of Violation and citations.

At the next monthly AGI meeting on Tuesday, October 11th, there will be a presentation to the group by City staff that explains the process of filing code complaints, filling out Notices of Violation, and what sorts of issues qualify. The meeting will be held at 6:30 at Emerge, 2425 N. Haskell. It should be a very informative discussion, so I would urge you to attend, even if you represent a neighborhood other than the four involved with the AGI Program.

At last week's Blenman/Elm neighborhood association meeting I committed to include in this week's newsletter the map showing the area of town that is impacted by



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 1,4 Dioxane plume. Here's a link:

<http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/sites/default/files/water/TARP%20Delivery%20Area.pdf>

The new treatment plant we are building to take care of the problem is being funded by the Tucson Water 5 year Capital Improvement Plan. Those dollars were to be spent on other projects. The City is working with the USAF/DOD to get them to pay for what is legitimately their obligation to the Tucson residents. Writing your Congressman is a cliché, but in this case, it is something I would encourage you to do. The cost of the new plant is in the neighborhood of \$10M, and there is an annual operations cost of just under \$1M. Those dollars should not end up in your monthly water bill. The new plant will be located nearby the existing TARP Plant at I-19 and Irvington.

In May of 2006, Mayor and Council updated the "Rules and Regulations" that guide decorum at various City public forums, one of which is the Mayor and Council regular session. As many of you know, a part of those meetings is the Call to the Audience. The vast majority of participants make their points in a respectful manner. There are some though who insist on inflicting themselves on the rest of the people in attendance by hurling insults and simply by acting inappropriately. The 'Rules' speak to that sort of behavior:

"Citizens attending meetings shall observe rules of propriety, decorum and good conduct. Any person making personal, impertinent, or slanderous remarks, or who becomes boisterous while addressing the governing body, may be removed by the sergeant at arms."

At our meeting on Tuesday, we exercised that rule, when an individual has made impertinent remarks. We will continue to do so. I mention this for those of you who may have experienced an uncomfortable display during one of your visits to our meeting and as a result have chosen to refrain from returning. Come on back! We're not going to allow the good people to be run out by those who can't leave their attitude checked at the door.

9-1-1 Update

It has now been 4 weeks since the Fire/EMS side of the 9-1-1 center was transferred to TFD. There are three general areas that needed to be addressed when they took over:

Technical issues: The Qwest technicians are working with TFD staff on resolving the still on-going technical problems with the system. Progress is being made, and work-arounds are being implemented while permanent solutions are being put into place. New software has been installed that will assist in tracking calls as they move through the system. This will help in troubleshooting, and ultimately solving issues that still remain. The fact that this work continues is further evidence that what the former City Manager called "operator error" was mischaracterized, to be charitable.



Important Phone Numbers

Staffing issues: Two new 9-1-1 operators have been hired, and two more are in the final stages of going through background checks. Those 4 will bring that part of the center up to full staffing. We are still down a significant number of workers in the dispatch centers, but recruiting continues so some progress can be expected. I continue to believe that these positions are deserving of a reclassification so we are competitive in the marketplace. That is an issue that may need to be readdressed in the near future.

Morale issues: Definite positive – on the upswing now that dispatchers have been included in the conversation with respect to the work flow processes and technical problems that exist with the system. Of all the areas that needed resolution, this is the one that shows the greatest improvement.

Thanks to Chief Critchley and his staff for taking on this difficult task.

Several months ago the City issued a Request for Proposal for property near Irvington and I-19. An apparent successful bidder was identified for retail use. The Arizona Daily Star reported recently that the owner of an adjacent parcel filed a notice of intent to sue the City over the award of that RFP due to a no-retail restriction that had been placed on the sale of the parcel. Today the Mayor and Council voted 6-1 to refrain from awarding the RFP to the apparent successful bidder and to consider conditions under which to rebid the piece at a later date.

If you see that vote count and wonder why somebody would not support such a decision, I explained the reason for my dissent at the study session; which is, I feel the bidder spent time and money on responding to the original RFP, acting in good faith that the information contained in the bid documents was accurate. While I'm not big on handing out taxpayer dollars, in this case it strikes me that the winning bidder (the only company to bid) is due some fair consideration from the City for having invested time and money responding to an RFP that ultimately ended up being cancelled due to what the Star reported as having been a deed restriction that was not made public to potential bidders. If we want prospects to participate with us in our bid process, I believe showing the good faith to have made them whole for their investment in the process would have been a good sign to send to future bidders. I intimated as much publicly today, in response to the facts presented in the Arizona Daily Star.

The City is losing Department Heads due to a variety of reasons, but primarily as a result of favorable 'early-out' offers that have been made recently. We will hire a new H.R. Director, Transportation Director, Water Director, Zoning Examiner, and we will name a permanent Fire Chief and watch as the Finance Director works through how to fund a new I.T. Director (no funds were included in our fy'12 budget for that position.)

The selection process for each of those slots is in progress. They are critical positions and I'm sure we will get plenty of qualified candidates for each of the jobs.

We are also beginning the selection process for our new City Manager. By Code, the former Deputy City Manager, Richard Miranda will fill that role until we decide on a permanent hire. I have confidence that Mr. Miranda will serve the community well while he holds down the duties of City Manager. He has 34 years with TPD, 10 of which were working as

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 Bob Walkup
791-4201

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

Chief of Police. He has been on the City Manager's staff for several years and so knows the lay of the land, the players and the issues. He'll do fine.

In the mean time, we have asked the H.R. Director to begin the selection process for an Executive Recruitment Consultant who will guide the process as we consider candidates to replace Mike Letcher. The expected cost for the Consultant is in the \$50K - \$75K range. Why do I believe that's money well spent? Simply because the importance of finding the right person for the job is that valuable to the community.

We are hiring a CEO for a \$1.3B organization. We have over 4,000 employees, the community has over 500,000 residents, we have just gone through a significant series of issues relative to 9-1-1, cash control with ParkWise, worked our way through a significant budget cycle, and now are in the position of retooling much of the City hierarchy while we stare in the face of electing a new mayor, and possibly new City Council members. That set of facts leads me to believe that we do the community a disservice if we do not do a thorough job of recruiting from as broad a base as we can, with the goal in mind of finding somebody who will come into the role for years to come. We have seen too much of a revolving door in the City Manager's position. Making the right hiring choice should take us in the direction of correcting that. The entire process may well take up to 6 months. We voted on Tuesday to begin the process.

Finally, we are also putting together a list of Design Professionals who will assist the Planning and Design Services Department in plan review on projects that primarily involve some level of historic review capability. At the end of that selection process the City hopes to have 4-5 Design firms who have the skill set to do those reviews in order to expedite moving reviews in a more expeditious manner. If you would like to be involved as one of those Design Professionals, you may contact PDSD at 791.5612 in order to get the specific credentials for which the City is looking to fill that roster.

And if you missed my report on Rio Nuevo and the TCC earlier this week, call the Ward 6 office at 791.4601 and they'll email one out to you. I will be doing a walk through of the TCC on Thursday @ 5pm along with many of the Council members, hopefully some of the Rio Nuevo Board members, members of the TCC Commission, MTCVB, media and others. The purpose will be to assess the condition of the facility in the hopes of finally convincing the Rio Board to assist financially in the rehabilitation of the venue. You're certainly free to join us in that tour.

Sincerely,



Steve Kozachik
Council Member, Ward 6
www.tucsonaz.gov/ward6

Passport Day: Saturday, September 17 – 8:00am until 1:00pm

The Western Passport Center is hosting a special event to provide passport information to U.S. citizens and to accept passport applications. In addition, thousands of local acceptance facilities around the country are joining the Department of State in celebrating Passport Day in the USA 2011, a national passport acceptance and outreach event. The event will be held at the Western Passport Center at 7373 E Rosewood Street.



REGISTER NOW FOR MELANOMA WALK 2011 - OCT. 1

The Skin Cancer Institute at The University of Arizona Cancer Center will host Melanoma Walk 2011 on Saturday, Oct. 1 from 2-6 p.m. (walk begins at 4 p.m.). This family- and dog-friendly event will be held at The University of Arizona Cancer Center - North Campus and will feature free skin cancer screenings from 2-4 p.m. (first-come, first-served), free food and goody bags for walk participants, kids' activities, entertainment and raffle prizes. Learn more: www.fightmelanomatoday.org



Help Clean Up Graffiti

In an effort to promote community service, the Allsport Academy Student Council has chosen as its first project the clean up of tagging and graffiti. The Allsport Academy Student Council will be going out to local businesses and areas to help cover up and paint over graffiti. The Allsport Academy Student Council is seeking donations of exterior paint, primer and brushes to help in this effort to clean up the local Tucson area and take a stand against tagging and graffiti. For more information on this project, please contact Allsport Academy at 520-731-2150.

Tucson Pops - September 18 at Deemester Outdoor Theater

The Tucson Pops Orchestra will wrap up their season of "Music Under the Stars" this Sunday at the Deemester Outdoor Theater. They conclude their sixth decade of playing with various orchestral favorites, including selections from *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Cats*. The concert and season will end with the usual "America the Beautiful." Come enjoy the beautiful weather and music. The concert starts at 7:00. For more information visit www.tucsonpops.org

Congress Street Entertainment District Events

This week at the entertainment venues on and near Congress Street in Downtown Tucson . . .

Fox Theatre, 17 W. Congress St.

Wednesday, September 14, 6:30pm. Athletes, Artists, and Angels on the MOVE for Education. Inspiration, live performances, and video clips. Free tickets available by emailing lucy@globalmovemedia.com.

Saturday, September 17, 7:30pm. "West Side Story", the 1961 musical film.

Sunday, September 18, 2:00pm. "West Side Story"

www.FoxTucsonTheatre.org

Rialto Theatre, 318 E. Congress St.

Wednesday, September 14, 8:00pm. Queensryche, with Windowpane. All ages, \$33/\$39.

Saturday, September 17, 5:00pm. Friki Fest II, Skull Island Featuring: Agent Orange. All ages, \$10/\$18.

Sunday, September 18, 8:00pm. Electric Summer, Vol. 4. 16 and over, \$16/\$21.

www.RialtoTheatre.com

The Screening Room, 127 E. Congress St.

September 16-24. Arizona Underground Film Festival.

www.azuff.org

Beowulf Alley Theatre Co., 11 S. 6th Ave.

September 8 to October 2. "Rough Crossing", by Oscar and Tony Award-winning Tom Stoppard from an original play by Ferenc Molnar

www.BeowulfAlley.org

Tucson Convention Center Events

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

Tucson Music Hall

September 20-25. Broadway in Tucson presents, "West Side Story"

www.BroadwayinTucson.com