

Ward 6 Staff



Steve Kozachik
Council Member



Ann Charles



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Ward 6 – Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 21, 2011

A Message from Steve

To open I'd like to send out a huge “Thanks” to Noni Menke and the folks at both Commerce Bank and the Flores family for hosting last week's Youth on their Own Reception at the Stillwell House. The setting was great and the program is a wonderful community asset. If you're unfamiliar with Youth on their Own, their mission is to support homeless youth in our community to graduate High School. Since 1986, over 10,000 of our youth have been served by this program. Their endowment is managed by the Community Foundation of Southern Arizona. To find out more and to get involved, check out www.yoto.org

Another brief announcement that's of community interest is that on September 27th and 28th, there will be scoping meetings to brief residents on Operation Snowbird. That is the mission hosted by both TIA and DM for non-Tucson based Air Force operations. The purpose of the scoping meetings is to bring the public up to speed on the on-going National Environmental Policy Act process, describe its purpose and to present alternatives being considered for the Operation.

The meeting on the 27th will be held at the Four Points Sheraton located at Campbell and Speedway. On the 28th, it will be held out at Empire High School, 10701 E. Mary Ann Cleveland Way. Both meetings will run from 5:30 - 8pm. The meeting on the 27th falls on the night of a M&C meeting so I have asked that a 3rd scoping session be scheduled in the mid-town area so people won't have to choose between the two. That request is under review.

Public Safety

Related to Davis Monthan's mission, I'd like to briefly reflect back on the incidents that surrounded the DM lock down last week and ultimately caused a reoccurrence of concerns over the 911 Emergency system.

To review - DM went into lock down mode as the result of a report that a man was holed up in a building on base with an assault rifle. The lock down was precautionary and thankfully at the end of the day, literally, it was discovered that there was no weapon involved, no injuries were suffered and the base was reopened without further incident - until later in the night when planned detonations of explosives were conducted. The detonations were not reported to surrounding residents until a very short time before they began, thus accounting for the fact that most people were caught completely unaware that they'd be treated to the sound of explosions during



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 early evening. I want you to know that I have expressed to Colonel Cherrey at DM my expectation that the base command will be proactive henceforth in terms of alerting the surrounding public to similar exercises.

The reaction was predictable and totally understandable. Calls flooded into the 911 center and, as a result, the phone lines jammed and callers received busy signals. Those busy signals heightened even further the concern of the residents.

The busy signals may have been caused by calls being backed up in the Dispatch center queue. That possibility doesn't necessarily point to continuing technical problems with the system, but it may well point to the staffing issues I've been harping on for several months. If there are more calls than operators, the result is what it was.

I will continue to maintain that the Dispatcher jobs deserve to be reclassified so that Tucson is competitive with surrounding markets and we can both retain, and recruit more workers. I will also continue to push for a full elimination of the Dispatch furloughs. It is fortunate that this incident was not the result of a true emergency. But we should not wait for one to occur before taking all steps within the ability and authority of the City bureaucracy to put ourselves in the best position for ensuring we have fully staffed seats, with fully rested and fairly paid employees. The safety of the public demands that.

At the Tuesday M&C meeting we approved moving budget capacity from General Services over to TFD for the operations of the 911 Center. That was merely an accounting move that was necessary for bookkeeping and legal purposes. I pulled the item from the consent agenda in order to make the following point:

The budget dollars that were transferred reflected the anticipated costs for General Services to operate the 911 Center. They did not anticipate (nor could they have) the costs for fully staffing all positions in the Center, the cost of overtime absorbed while we work our way towards full staffing, the cost of eliminating furloughs, the cost of reclassifying the dispatch position, and any costs we might incur from making upgrades to the system. TFD took a significant operations budget reduction this fiscal year. They cannot take on more unanticipated costs without further service reductions. I wanted to be on record alerting the City Manager and Fire Chief that if there comes a time during this fiscal year when TFD is having to dig into what was to be its own already reduced operations budget in order to absorb the new work and staffing related to 911, they need to let us know so we can weigh in on the questions of if, how and/or where to come up with that money. I told the Chief, no more cuts in service.

Staying on the public safety theme - click on this link:

http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/sites/default/files/ward6/9-28_violent_crime_sum.pdf

to see a letter from the Chief of Police describing the recent spate of violent crimes we have experienced in Tucson. This is an anomaly, but to the men and women in the police force, the incidents represent the daily risks they face. Last week I shared a photo of a picture taken from a non-Tucson "routine traffic stop." This letter is home grown crime.



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 Bob Walkup
791-4201

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

Again, thanks to all of our public safety workers; police, fire and 911.

Roads

As you'll recall, there is under way a study of the road conditions throughout the City, with the goal being to identify those most urgently in need of chip sealing, and for Ward 6 residents, another list of areas we'll be using \$75K from unspent Ward office budget money to fill potholes. TDOT has finished its City wide study and has identified the chip seal candidates. Click on this link:

http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/sites/default/files/ward6/9-28_chip_seal_update.pdf

and you can see where they are located. The color coding means:

Green - residential areas that received a chip seal treatment in fiscal years 2007, 2008 and 2009

Red - areas that are going to be targeted with the first wave of \$2M in funding that TDOT is trying to put together. They've gathered about \$750K so far.

Yellow - areas that will follow the Red area, as more funding becomes available.

The map generally shows areas reflected in quarter and whole square mile segments. The intent is to get started as soon as possible, working within the constraints of the weather - before it gets too cold for the process to be effective. I wish to thank the Ward 6 residents who have been so patient, and supportive throughout this process. In the end, that patience has paid off by Ward 6 receiving both the benefit of the \$75K for potholes as well as consideration for the chip sealing being funded on a city-wide basis. Best of both worlds.

TCC

Quiz: What do these numbers represent: \$13.2 million over last 12 months: Debt service is about \$8.5 mil/yr. Admin expenses \$700k to \$900k/yr

Answer: Excess TIF of about \$3.5mil/yr that Rio Nuevo is accumulating.

Why does that matter? Because it's your money. Because the TCC is a community asset that is in need of repair. Because some of those dollars could be spent on those repairs if the Rio Board was so inclined (in addition to unspent Bond proceeds that are sitting idle). Because Rio has a list of nearly \$40M in repairs that are needed.

And because they have not elected to share with the City in investing into that facility (nearly \$19M by the City since the end of 2009, despite the fact that Rio owns the building) to take care of the capital needs that exist in the building.

At M&C on Tuesday we heard a lengthy report from the Metropolitan Tucson Convention and Visitors Bureau (MTCVB) about marketing tourism to Tucson. One of the highlights (lowlights) was the condition of the TCC. In its current state, the building is hard to market to. That impacts the businesses in the downtown core, it impacts the hotels around the area, and it impacts all Tucson taxpayers who watch Mayor and Council year after year try to cut our way out of the budget mess we've been in, reducing core services. Incoming events help our budget.

The Mayor formed a subcommittee of Regina Romero, Shirley Scott and myself to meet with a similar Rio subcommittee with the expressed purpose of:

- a) Identifying what financial assets the City can bring to the table
- b) Identifying what financial assets Rio can bring to the table
- c) Identifying the most pressing needs within the facility
- d) Getting to work on those.

Wouldn't it be a switch if, when the Gem show people showed up early next year they could see and appreciate some positive changes to the venue?

The City was ready to agree on Term sheets last December. Rio is still paying attorneys to re-write those agreements.

The City is equally ready to begin (continue) making repairs to the TCC. We are hopeful that Rio's Board sees the benefits to the community and brings to the table a willingness to participate with us.

Talk to Me

Two items on which M&C expressed concerns over communication with staff:

We gave staff the go-ahead on developing a rebate system for residential rain-water harvesting systems. To the extent we can help people afford their own system, we're advancing the need to get our arms around consumption and conservation. That's a necessary and a good thing. To the extent that staff has identified \$100K in the conservation budget to "develop the program," that's money that should be going straight into the rebates being offered to homeowners. When you're blessed with the services of a volunteer citizen's group (CWAC) who knows their stuff, the percentage of that 'development' fund should be nearly nil. This effort was championed by Councilman Cunningham. I will be supporting him on mitigating as much as possible the use of those dollars on process as opposed to product.

The other communications related issue is the Council's participation in the development and direction given for Pima Association of Governments work lists. Last week we saw items related to an I-11 Freeway by-pass that would render any logistics/inland port idea for Tucson moot. The material said it would "assist in making Nevada the distribution and manufacturing "Capital of the West." We saw discussion being advanced for what is being called a "Sun Corridor" described in our material as "an evolving 'megapolitan' region where the urbanized areas of PAG, CAAG, and MAG will combine" (essentially - Tucson to Phoenix - fully developed). We saw plans for a policy of early acquisition of properties along the routes of planned road alignment work - regardless of how far into the future the work may be programmed to occur. Council Member Uhlich presented our concerns over the flawed process in a somewhat more genteel manner than I did. Simply stated, bringing us major issues such as those after they have been through discussion and planning at the PAG level falls under the category of "that dog won't hunt."

So, as we near changes in some top level City staff positions - oddly, each represented in the areas we had some push back in yesterday (Water, Transportation, Mayor - he's our PAG and RTA representative) I believe we set the stage for what will be an opportunity to lay out new ground rules for the eventual incumbents of those positions: spend it where we say and give us a say in where we're spending it.

Finally, The Tucson Women's Commission is sponsoring an art competition for girls who are in grades 6 - 12. The contest offers cash prizes for the top three artists who depict women making a difference, or who have made a difference on behalf of other women.

The deadline for submitting is 7pm on Monday, October 28th. They are to be delivered to the Commission Office which is located at 240 N. Court. Call 624.8318 for more instructions.

Sincerely,



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

The Aurora Foundation invites you to The 5th Annual Disabled Divaz Fashion Show
5pm - 6pm ~ Cocktail Reception 6:15pm ~ disABLED Divaz Fashion Show
(followed by a multi-course dinner, special appearances and)

Tickets: \$95/person; \$170/couple Table for 10 for \$1000

JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort & Spa 3800 W. Starr Pass Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85745

Purchase tickets online at www.disableddivaz.com or www.planetaurora.org 520-989-0664

To kick off the “**Know Where to Throw**” effort, Environmental Services will hold a community drive to collect recyclable and reusable “stuff” that we often overlook: items that can’t be put in the blue barrel, but can be dropped off at locations in our community. For this drive, ES has identified four items -- crayons, eyeglasses, bras, and athletic shoes -- that will be collected from **October 3 through October 28!**

If you would like to help and clear some space at home, bring your items to any City Council Ward Office and City Hall. You’ll find a location near you! For more information here is the link:

<http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/home/announcement/know-where-throw>

Electronics Recycling Event taking place at El Pueblo Neighborhood Center on Saturday, October 8, 2011. Help to encourage recycling and reuse, prevent landfill waste and 91-5000 or email recycle@tucsonaz.gov

Palo Verde Neighborhood Green Infrastructure Project

The Palo Verde Neighborhood Association is joining with Watershed Management Group to install green infrastructure practices in the community. On October 1 from 8AM-12:30PM, the association needs volunteers to help reduce flooding and erosion, build basins, and improve various neighborhood green infrastructure. The project will begin on the Northeast corner of Pima and Palo Verde. Come out and help capture discarded water.

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 Allort Academy at 520-731-2150.

Congress Street Entertainment District Events

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

Fall Club Crawl, on and near Congress Street and 4th Avenue. 30 stages, 90 bands. Saturday, October 1, 8:00pm.

Street Closures:

Starting Saturday, 10/1/11 from 8:00am until Sunday, 10/2/11 8:00am

5th Ave will be completely closed between Broadway to Congress and from Congress to Toole Ave.

Starting Saturday, 10/1/11 from 12-noon until Sunday, 10/2/11 8:00am

Congress will be completely closed from 4th Ave to 6th Ave. The two westbound lanes of Congress will be detoured onto Broadway @ 4th Ave - making Broadway two-way traffic from 6th Ave to 4th Ave. Westbound traffic will use Broadway until 6th Ave and then will be directed northbound on 6th Ave. Eastbound Broadway will be reduced to one lane from Scott Ave to 5th Ave. Left turns will be prohibited along Broadway (from either direction) @ 6th Ave (except public buses), 5th Ave & 4th Ave. Parking will be restricted along Broadway from 6th Ave to 4th Ave to accommodate detour.

Fox Theatre, 17 W. Congress St.

Saturday, October 1, 7:00pm. 2011 Jazz Legends in Concert: "A Journey Through Jazz". Sunday, October 2, 2:00pm. "The Black Stallion Returns", (1983 film, PG rating).

www.FoxTucsonTheatre.org

Rialto Theatre, 318 E. Congress St.

Friday, September 30, 6:30pm. We Came as Romans (rock), with Miss May I, Of Mice and Men, Texas in July, and Close to Home. All ages, \$18/\$19.

Saturday, October 1, 8:00pm. Fall Club Crawl. 18 and up, \$8/\$10.

Sunday, October 2, 8:00pm. Portugal, The Man (rock), with Alberta Cross. All ages, \$15/\$17.

Tuesday, October 4, 6:30pm. Never Shout Never (emo pop rock), with Rocket to the Moon, Fake Problems, Carter Hulseley. All ages, \$21/\$23.

www.RialtoTheatre.com Box Office: M-F 12:00-6:00pm. (520) 740-1000

The Screening Room, 127 E. Congress St.

Wednesday, September 28, 7:15pm. "Stuck!" \$7 admission.

Saturday, October 1, 8:00pm to 1:00am. Club Crawl Acoustic Stage. Al Perry, Billy Sedlmayr, Van Christian, Hank Topless and Ashbury. Club Crawl wristband required for admission. www.azmac.org/scroom

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

Through Sunday, October 2. "Rough Crossing", by Oscar and Tony Award-winning Tom

original play by Ferenc Molnar www.BeowulfAlley.org

Tucson Convention Center Events

SAHBA Home & Garden Show. Friday, September 30 – Sunday, October 2. Friday and Saturday – 10:00am to 7:00pm. Sunday -10:00am to 6:00pm

Tucson's largest home and garden show produced by the Southern Arizona Home Builders Association (SAHBA). You'll find the very latest in home improvement trends, remodeling ideas and outdoor living. Free public parking at the TCC.

<http://www.sahbahomeshow.com/> <http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/tcc/eventcalendar>

Tucson Music Hall

Arizona Opera presents *Cavalleria Rusticana & Pagliacci*

Saturday, October 1, 7:30pm – 10:30pm

Ticket prices start at \$25. Tickets available at the TCC Ticket office, all Ticketmaster outlets, or order by phone at 520.293.4336 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. weekdays. www.AZOpera.com