

Dear Friends:

We at Ward 6 would like to thank all of the wonderful businesses from throughout the Ward who so kindly offered their product in support of our open house last week Thursday. The food was great and made for a truly enjoyable evening for the hundreds of people who passed through the event over the course of the evening.

For me, it was a tremendous opportunity to meet and talk to so many constituents, each of which brings so much to the table. We are so blessed in our community to have such a wide array of talented and involved people, each bringing their own unique perspectives to bear on the issues we jointly face. As the evening progressed I heard peoples' ideas and concerns on topics as wide-ranging as the modern streetcar, road repair, the F-35, Reid Park Zoo, relief centers for victims of domestic violence, and many more.

We are a city rich with potential—sufficient, I am confident, to meet the challenges we face in the days ahead.

The following are the vendors who supported the event—please show your appreciation by giving them your business:

Cup Café at Hotel Congress	The Hotel Arizona	Whole Foods
Delectables	Chick-Fil-A	Charles Ambrose
El Parador	George Favela, Qwest	QuikTrip
Safeway Foods	El Saguarito	
Sir Veza's Taco Garage	Ronni Kotwica, Palo Verde N.A.	

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Speaking of the F-35s, the Scoping Open House Meetings regarding the Air Force F-35A training proposal, are listed as follows:

Tucson International Airport AGS Meetings:

1-Mar 2010

Sunnyside High School Foyer/Auditorium

1725 E. Bilby Road

Tucson, AZ 85706 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

5-Mar 2010

Roskruge Elementary School Auditorium

501 E. Sixth Street

Tucson, AZ 85705 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Some comments on two particular items:

It's by now "old news", and yet still very exciting news, that Tucson was awarded a tremendous shot in the arm by virtue of a \$63 million federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant that will go towards funding a **modern streetcar**.

It is the private sector development that will be catalyzed along the route that makes this project so valuable—linking the University to Downtown, eventually easing the student housing strains now being placed on neighborhoods, energizing entertainment along the route from Main Gate, down 4th Avenue, onto Congress Street, and then fostering the development of the West Side.

The challenges of working with existing merchants along the route to minimize disruption to their businesses is going to be front and center on my plate as our Department of Transportation starts to work out a game plan by which to move forward with construction. We will use this newsletter as a vehicle to keep you up to speed as plans develop.

Last week we also saw the latest in plans for a large-scale **downtown convention hotel**. While the aesthetics are indeed impressive, so are the costs. During study session I was assured by our City Manager that we will not be presented a funding model that puts at risk our General Fund, but looks to other investment tools to “backstop” the bonds that will be needed to fund any such endeavor. That assurance will be the linchpin in any decision I will make in support of such an investment. As I said at that meeting, “we’re spending other peoples’ money”; we must do so wisely. Whether it is the hotel now under review, or some other proposals not yet unveiled, I am confident that Tucson is on the verge of seeing development take off in the downtown area.

Finally, I want to let you know of a couple events taking place in March in the Ward 6 area:

**Second Annual Garden District Neighborhood Association
Community Yard/Craft Sale – Sat., March 13, 2010 - 7:30am–2:00 pm**

Sell your artwork and crafts! Set up beginning at 6:30 a.m. Location of Sale: 1933 N. Bell Ave. (vacant lot). Residents from other neighborhoods and businesses are welcome. Limited spaces available. First come/first reserved. \$10 to reserve a 10x10 space (application attached). Get the necessary information by contacting Lois Pawlak at 325-7611 or loispawlak@cox.net

Solar Rock Festival - March 27th – 12pm-6pm at Himmel Park. The Solar Rock Festival will showcase local talent including musicians, speakers, exhibits related to solar energy, and of course a wide palate of food provided by local businesses. Come on out and celebrate the day, and don't forget your sunscreen.

Sincerely,



Steve Kozachik,
Council Member, Ward 6
<http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/ward6>