

August 30, 2010

Fellow Tucsonans,

This past week I was able to tour Los Reales Landfill and the Recycle America recycling facility. Thank you to Environmental Services Director Andy Quigley and his staff. As you may know, our Environmental Services Department is an enterprise fund, meaning they are run solely on the funds they collect from residents and businesses that are serviced by the City to haul their trash and recycling. No general fund money is used. A few facts: 37% of what Americans throw away each year is recyclable. Each day, we throw away 4.6 pounds of stuff. In Tucson, what we as a community recycle is the equivalent (in carbon) of taking 25,000 cars off the road each year! That's good, but we can do better. Recycling is not only good for the environment, but it extends the life of our landfills, saving us all money.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TUCSON

On Aug 20, my office celebrated Tucson's 235th birthday with the Second Annual Ward 2 Birthday Cake Contest.

The cakes were judged in five categories: taste, most creative, most representative of Tucson, best decorated and a youth category. The cakes that were submitted were incredible! To see the cakes, please go to the photo gallery at <http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/ward2>. The judges included former Councilwoman Janet Marcus, former University of Arizona basketball star Joseph Blair, former UA football star Max Zendejas and current UA punter Keenyn Crier.

This was a fun event and lots of people turned out to view the cakes and participate in the festivities. Thank you to Tucson's Birthday Planners, a 501(c)3 corporation, a loosely assembled all volunteer organization dedicated to celebrating Tucson's unique history, cultural diversity, natural wonders and special place in the universe. We look forward to hosting this event again next year!

CITY FURLOUGH DAY/HOLIDAY CLOSURE – The Ward 2 Council office will be closed on Friday, Sep 3, for a furlough day and on Monday, Sep 6, the Labor Day holiday.

WARD 2 NEIGHBORHOOD LEGISLATURE MEET & GREET

Councilman Paul Cunningham wants to hear from you, our neighborhood leaders, about upcoming agenda items and upcoming ballot items in November. This is a good opportunity to voice your opinions and concerns about your neighborhoods. TPD Captain Reuben Nunez, Commander of Operations Division East will be on hand, as well as Wendy A. Cevallos, Program Supervisor of Arizona Attorney General's Office of Crime, Fraud, and Victim's Resource Center. For more info contact Justin Searle, Ward 2 Council Aide, at 791-4687 or email justin.searle@tucsonaz.gov. To RSVP contact Amanda Colon at 791-4687 or email amanda.colon@tucsonaz.gov.

When: Sep 7

Where: Eastside City Hall 7575 E. Speedway Blvd. Rm. C

Time: 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Who: Neighborhood Association & Home Owner Association Presidents and Board Members

Food: Veggie Platters, Pizza, Soda etc...

Please RSVP if you haven't already.

SENIOR ANTI-CRIME UNIVERSITY FREE CLASSES HOSTED BY ATTORNEY GENERAL GODDARD - LEARN TO AVOID SCAMS, PREVENT FRAUD AND STAY SAFE!

What: Work with Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard to learn to detect scams against seniors and to help others avoid frauds, scams and abuse. The Attorney General's Senior Anti-Crime University will offer classes in: Consumer Fraud & Scams, Personal Safety, Health Care/Medicare Fraud, Elder Abuse & Neglect, Financial Exploitation, Identity Theft & Investment Fraud

When: Sep 16, 2010

Time: 1 – 5 p.m.

Where: Tucson Medical Center Senior Services

El Dorado Health Campus

1400 N. Wilmot Road

Registration Required - Spaces Limited, for more information or to REGISTER

ONLINE, go to the Attorney General's website, www.azag.gov/seniors/sleuths/sacu.html

Email: SeniorSleuths@azag.gov or call the Attorney General's Office, 602-542-2124

WARD 2 TOWN HALL

Thursday, Sep 23, 6-8 p.m. Come learn more about the November ballot initiatives. Please RSVP with Amanda Colon at 791-4687 or Amanda.Colon@tucsonaz.gov

NATIONAL TAKE BACK INITIATIVE

Prescription drug abuse is an epidemic in this country. One way people are getting addicted to dangerous drugs is by raiding the medicine cabinets of their friends and family. On Saturday, Sep 25, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and all TPD substations are operating collection sites where you can turn in your unused, unneeded, and expired prescription medications – no questions asked. This is a free, anonymous service that will help keep your home safe and could save lives. For more information and to find a collection site near you, visit www.dea.gov

SPEEDWAY BOULEVARD, CAMINO SECO TO HOUGHTON ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

At a pre-construction meeting on Aug 25, it was announced by city staff that this project would start on Sep 7. This project consists of widening Speedway Boulevard from Camino Seco to Houghton Road and providing two through-lanes in each direction with a center, landscaped median. New concrete curbs, rubberized asphalt paving, sidewalks, bike lanes, and frontage roads are also included. Improvements to drainage include storm drains, catch basins, and reinforced concrete box culverts to minimize flooding and provide all weather access. New traffic signals will be installed at Harrison Road and

Houghton Road, and pedestrian crossing signals at Schrader Lane and Igo Way. Street lighting is also included, as well as landscaping and public art.

Contact Fred Felix, TDOT Engineering Project Manager, at 837-6620 if there is an emergency or if you have concerns. You may find construction updates at <http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/project/speedway-camino-seco-houghton/>.

EASTSIDE PARKS AND RECREATION

Furlough Day - Parks and Recreation centers, administrative offices, pools, and KIDCO are closed Friday, Sep 3 for a City of Tucson unpaid employee furlough day. Tucson City Golf courses and the Reid Park Zoo will remain open. All City offices and departments are closed on Monday, September 6 for the Labor Day holiday.

Udall Park Soccer Construction Update - The Udall Park soccer fields and concession area are close to completion with last minute punch list items being taken care of over the next week. Inspections and testing are being completed on the lights for the soccer field with the intention of getting this field available for evening use as soon as it passes all safety inspections required. The two new fields are still on schedule to open in November after the new sod has had a chance to root and germinate for optimal long term use.

Udall Center Closure Information - The Udall Center indoor walking track, weight room area and the Carol West Senior Addition reopens to the public on Monday, Aug 30 after a week of annual floor maintenance and deep cleaning. The gym and racquetball courts will remain closed until Tuesday, Sep 7.

Udall Center/Senior Wellness Hour - The Senior Wellness Hour will resume its regular schedule starting Wednesday, Sep 8 at 9 a.m. The program includes social activity, fitness exercises and once a month educational speaker.

“MUSIC IN THE PARK”

The Arizona Symphonic Winds under the direction of László Veres will continue its 21st season of “Music in the Park” series at Udall Park, presenting four free concerts for the public in the month of September & October. Tucson’s premier concert band performs a variety of music including: overtures, light classics, marches, Broadway show tunes and popular music. Bring lawn chairs, blankets, and picnic lunches to these fine evenings of entertainment for the whole family. Free shuttle service is available starting at 5:30 p.m. at the northwest corner of Tanque Verde and Sabino Roads.

The concerts are Saturdays, Sep 11, 18, 25, Oct 2, 2010 at 7 p.m. These concerts are presented by the Tucson Parks and Recreation Department.

WE ARE A DROP OFF POINT FOR ITEMS FOR DONATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING GROUPS:

* THE COMMUNITY FOOD BANK - Non-perishable foods

- * DIAPER BANK OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA - Infant/child/adult diapers
- * SAAF (Southern Arizona Aids Foundation) - Personal hygiene products and household cleaning products
- * TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network) - Personal care items for individuals and families in need
- * ICU - Eyeglass donations to a student-led organization that sends them to war-torn countries
- * CINDERELLA'S CLOSET - Prom dress donations so that all young ladies can have a beautiful gown for their prom. Please feel free to drop off prom dresses and accessories to any of the following sites:
 - Ward 2 Council Office (7575 E. Speedway)
 - State Farm Insurance Agency (6801 E. Camino Principal, Suite 103)
 - YWCA (525 N. Bonita Avenue)
 - Sahuaro Girl Scout Council Office (4300 E. Broadway)
 - Bookman's (3733 W. Ina Road)
- * DANCING IN THE STREETS AZ www.ditsaz.org (<http://www.ditsaz.org/>) - The power of dance to transform lives, to enrich community! DITSAZ is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization that uses the excitement and discipline of ballet to guide children in achieving life skills. Please feel free to drop off gently used or new ballet attire i.e. pink tights, pink ballet slippers and pink or black leotards, as well as, gently used ballet costumes.

Respectfully,
Councilman Paul Cunningham