



# PAUL CUNNINGHAM

WARD 2

February 16, 2018

**WARD 2 COUNCIL OFFICE  
7575 E SPEEDWAY  
791-4687  
WARD2@TUCSONAZ.GOV**

## PAUL'S NOTE

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It's feeling like we missed winter entirely this year. We have had a couple of chilly nights, and that's it. This would almost be summer weather in some parts of the country. Every day is a nice day to be outside right?

Yes, but there is a big downside.

The changes that have given us a mild (to say the least) winter have also done much the same to the Rocky Mountains, especially the part in the Upper Colorado Basin. Snowfall there is what provides much of the water that comes to Tucson in the form of the Central Arizona Project.

Reports are that snowpack is down as much as several feet in some places in Colorado. Tony Davis of the Arizona Daily Star reported on this last week:

Overall, the Upper Basin's snowpack recently has ranged from 63 to 65 percent of normal, says the federal Colorado River Basin Forecast Center. That ties with 1990 for the lowest snowpack on record for this time of year, the forecast center says.

The center predicts that April-July runoff into Lake Powell will be 47 percent of normal.

If this were a one-off, then it would be

cause for a change of plans but not worry. We had a similar situation two years ago, and with the changes in weather that we've been experiencing over the last decade or so, this will happen more and more often. That will affect us here in Tucson.

The current level at Lake Mead, which determines Arizona's CAP allocation, is at 1,088 feet. At 1,075, rationing kicks in. Given that last year, the level varied by as much as ten feet, it is easy to think that we will be at that rationing level. When we reach 1,075, Arizona's allocation will be cut by 320,000 acre feet. The users that

## PAUL'S NOTE (CONTINUED)

will be affected by that cut will be agricultural users, other users (tribes and cities) will not be directly affected.

Still, those agricultural users (who account for 69% of all water use in the state) will switch to ground water. The state has been banking water in the case of such an eventuality, but we could see conflicts between agricultural users and our state's smaller communities, many of whom are still dependent on groundwater.

It isn't until the level is much lower, 1,025, that Tucson starts to lose its part of the allocation. By the way, that level is below the shallowest at which the boat launches will operate (1,060) and below the point where power from the dam starts to become more expensive than electricity from other sources (1,050).

Back in 2016, my colleagues and I heard an estimate that Lake Mead could hit that level as soon as 2019. That led us to decide, along with users across the Lower Colorado Basin, to leave a portion of our allocation in the lake.

That decision, however, doesn't "fix" the problem. It only delays when we get to that level until late in the next decade. This is not something that will be solved; this is a situation that requires vigilance on the part of policy makers.

I've been reading about Cape Town, South Africa, which, because of austere water rationing (citizens are down to 13 gallons per day), has just pushed back their "Day Zero," the day they'll run out of water, to sometime in July. Cape Town will not be the last city that this will happen to. Cities as varied as Jakarta, Moscow, Istanbul and Rio de Janeiro could see severe shortages soon. This isn't limited to under-resourced third world cities, or places where rampant corruption leads to poor policies: Miami could run into the same problem soon as rising seas contaminate fresh water sources.

There is a lot more to this than can be handled by 800 words in a council newsletter. You can find out more at an upcoming event at the U of A's Water Resources Research Center.

On Wednesday, March 28, 2018, management of resources like the CAP will be front and center at the Water Resources Research Center's Annual Conference, which will be held at the University of Arizona Student Union. They will explore the many facets of water, focusing on key questions. How will water exchanges, transfers and market-based transactions figure into our water future? What is the role of the private sector, including public-private partnerships? What factors and forces influence what we pay for water? If you'd like to attend, visit <https://wrrc.arizona.edu/events/conference/wrrc-conference-2018-business-water> .

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We can no longer offer tax forms at the Ward 2 office, but we have been referring people to the United Way's VITA program. The VITA program's east side location is at Abounding Grace Lutheran Church, 2450 S Kolb Road. They are open for walk-ins Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays between 9 am and 1 pm until April 14.

VITA asks that you bring the following:

**Required:**

Both spouses, if filing jointly

Picture ID for taxpayer (and spouse, if filing jointly)

Social security card (or acceptable alternative - see below) for each person listed on the return

Proof of income, like W2s and 1099s

Documentation of expenses

If anyone in the household is insured through the Marketplace, Form 1095-A and dependents' proof of income

**Recommended:**

Account and routing numbers for direct deposit of refunds

Prior year tax return

## DO YOU KNOW A CENTENARIAN?

Do you know someone who has been on this earth for 100 years? Let's celebrate their life at the annual Salute to Centenarians.

Call Jan Baker at 790-0504 or e-mail her at [jbaker@pcoa.org](mailto:jbaker@pcoa.org) to submit an individual's name by Friday, March 9.

The Salute will be held on Friday, May 4 at TMC's Marshall Conference Center, 5301 E Grant Road.

The event is presented by Tucson Medical Center and the Pima Council on Aging.

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## CAROL WEST SENIOR CENTER

**AARP Tax Aid:** Mondays & Wednesdays, 9 am—12 pm (Main Building)

**Movie Day:** Wednesday, February 28th The Mountain Between Us (PG-13) Start time: 12:30 P.M. Cost: \$1.00 - Refreshments served

*The Carol West Senior Addition at Udall features multipurpose rooms, lounge area with TV, computer adult learning center and pool tables. It is located at Udall Park and is open from 9 am to 4 pm Monday thru Friday.*

## PARKS PROGRAMS

**Activity Guide:** Tucson Parks and Recreation's Activity Guide for spring 2018 has arrived, and copies are available for pick up at all Parks and Recreation facilities. It can be viewed online at: [www.tucsonaz.gov/parks](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/parks).

The Activity Guide contains complete information on leisure classes, KIDCO after-school, aquatics, sports programs, registration, and the Discount Program. Registration dates are as follows:

The deadline for session 2 is March 13

All leisure class listings are online at [www.EZEEreg.com](http://www.EZEEreg.com). Please see the Activity Guide for more information on registration and deadlines. Whether you enjoy being active in slow-pitch softball leagues, want to design amazing jewelry, or get healthy and fit, there truly is something for everyone at Tucson Parks and Recreation. For questions or more information on registration or programs, contact Registration Services at 791-4877.

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**PAUL CUNNINGHAM,  
CITY COUNCIL, WARD 2**

Eastside City Hall  
7575 E Speedway  
Tucson AZ 85710

Phone: 520 791 4687  
Fax: 520 791 5380  
E-mail: ward2@tucsonaz.gov

Tucsonaz.gov/  
ward2

Remember to like  
Paul on Facebook!

Please bring these items to the Ward 2 Office  
for the following charities:

**THE COMMUNITY FOOD BANK—Non Perishable  
Items**

**DIAPER BANK OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA—  
Infant/Child/Adult Diapers**

**TIHAN - Personal Care Items for Individuals  
and Families in Need**

**LIONS CLUB—Eye Glasses**

**DANCING IN THE STREETS ARIZONA—Ballet/  
Dance Equipment**

**CASA MARIA—Plastic bags**

**SR. JOSE WOMEN'S SHELTER—Summer items  
and clothing, athletic shoes, back packs, tote**

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## MAYOR AND COUNCIL

The next Mayor and Council meeting will be on **Tuesday, February 20**. Regular Session starts at 5:30 pm following an afternoon study session. There is always a short call to the audience before the business portion of the meeting. Council chambers are located downtown at 255 W Alameda.

The agendas for the meetings are posted online at <http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/clerks/mcdocs>

