



# PAUL CUNNINGHAM

WARD 2

March 9, 2018

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## PAUL'S NOTE

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March 17th is St. Patrick's Day, but we are celebrating another event that day here in Pima County. The county is hosting three events to celebrate the completion of The Loop.

The Loop is a 131 mile paved trail that encircles Tucson that allows bicyclists, pedestrians and horseback riders to enjoy our Sonoran Desert free of motorized vehicles. A significant portion of the loop is right in the heart of Ward 2, from North of Fort Lowell Park and then along the Pantano Wash. I used to live near the loop and have biked that stretch many times.

The Loop grew out of flood control

measures that happened after the 1983 floods. There were measures taken to both strengthen the banks of local washes and purchase property those washes. After a few years, a series of "river parks" were developed. In the last decade or so, local governments decided to link those parks into The Loop.

I've been an advocate of more recreational amenities for years. I think we are all familiar with the reasons: parks, bike trails and community centers increase the livability of our neighborhoods and the community at large and more outdoor recreational spaces encourage

healthy activities. However, we had an item on our agenda this week that shows that developments like The Loop can also have an economic impact.

You've all driven by the office complex on Broadway just East of the Pantano Wash. Until recently, the building had been owned by the state retirement system. It was underutilized. It was purchased by a developer who now wants to put retail in the bottom floors. That sort of use is not allowed under the current zoning, so he had to come to mayor and council for a zoning change.

## PAUL'S NOTE (CONTINUED)

The reason why he wanted to put retail on those floors is because of The Loop. The Loop is only yards away from the building and the vision now is for shops and restaurants that will cater to the users of the loop.

It's not a pipe dream. As far back as 2013, Inside Tucson Business ran an article that detailed local businesses located near The Loop (not yet complete) that experienced a hike in sales that they attributed to Loop users.

More broadly, an economic study commissioned by Pima County showed that every dollar invested in The Loop has yielded \$9.04 in economic benefit. That includes money spent by local residents as well as visitors to our community who have heard about our reputation as a bicycle friendly city.

The celebrations will be at Kino Sports Complex, Brandi Fenton Park and Steam Pump Ranch in Oro Valley. I'm including information about the Kino and Fenton celebrations on page 3 of this newsletter. If you want more information, you can go to <http://pima.gov/theloop/>. There is also a special hike that day being put on by local writer Sirena Dufault and noted hiker Liz Thomas. You can find out more about that at <http://www.trailsinspire.com>.

Even if you can't go to the celebrations, enjoy the loop this weekend. We're having some great Tucson weather.

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## VITA TAX HELP

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

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## LOOP COMPLETION

On March 17, Pima County is throwing a party and they'd like you to join them. They are celebrating the completion of The Loop, a 131-mile multi-use trail that spans the metropolitan area, allowing cyclists, pedestrians, joggers and equestrians an opportunity to enjoy our beautiful Sonoran Desert on paved, vehicle-free pathways.

### **Kino Sports Complex Celebration**

Kino Stadium North Complex, 2817 E. Ajo Way, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Fun and fitness are on tap at the Kino Sports Complex event, which celebrates The Loop's role in fostering healthy and sustainable living in Pima County.

Join us at the Kino Stadium North Complex and participate in a Stay Healthy Walk around Sam Lena Park for your chance to win a number of prizes ranging from an iPad to various gift certificates. While there, visit with local organizations and vendors, enjoy live music from Empire High School's steel drum band, and don't miss the impressive acrobatic performances by Cirque Roots. You can also see local Crossfit gyms going head-to-head in a friendly competition and, if you're up to it, participate in a Zumba class onsite.

The event also will feature a formal dedication of the newly-completed Loop with Pima County officials, user groups and others. There will be plenty of activities for kids and food vendors onsite, so bring the whole family.

### **Brandi Fenton Park Celebration**

Brandi Fenton Memorial Park, 3482 E. River Road, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

"Connecting Communities" is the theme of our Loop Completion Celebration at Brandi Fenton Memorial Park. Learn about the history of this unique area nestled along the banks of the Rillito River.

Enjoy an equestrian demonstration and dog costume contest with a St. Paddy's Day theme. Listen in on presentations about the communities, vegetation and wildlife you'll find along The Loop. Visit with historians, Park representatives and the many groups who use The Loop every day.

Lastly, don't miss the chance to add a new member to your family. Pima Animal Care Center will be on hand with pets up for adoption. You'll also want to bring your own furry family member in costume for our planned pet costume party. Prizes available!

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## CAROL WEST SENIOR CENTER

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

**St Patrick's Day Lunch:** The lunch will be on Wednesday, March 14th, 1—2:30 pm. Lunch is sponsored by Atria Senior Living. Entertainment will be provided by the Accordion Club Of Tucson. The cost is \$5.00 Per Person.

**Movie Day:** Gifted (Rated PG 13), Wednesday, March 28th, Start time: 12:30 pm. The cost is \$1.00; snacks & refreshments will be provided

*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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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, March 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>

