



PAUL CUNNINGHAM

WARD 2

March 16, 2018

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PAUL'S NOTE

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The next time you see a police cruiser or a fire vehicle, you might see a decal that says "Tucson Delivers." That means it was purchased with the half-cent sales tax that you voted for last year.

The city expects to raise \$250 million through the tax. \$100 million will go to roads and the remaining \$150 million will go to new equipment and facilities for our first responders.

How these two amounts of money are spent is overseen by two citizens' committees. Much of the road money is still in the planning process; the public safety por-

tion has already shown results.

The fire department has already used a part of that money for new heart monitors, but has also gotten some new vehicles: four pumpers, 1 aerial quint, 1 aerial bucket and four battalion trucks. The city has also put an apparatus (an engine/ladder truck) on order, but it will be several months before it arrives.

The police department will be receiving 70 patrol units, 35 of which have arrived. The next 35 are scheduled to arrive later this year.

There will also be an additional 27 unmarked units, 25 of

which have arrived. I don't think they'll be putting a "Tucson Delivers" decal on those.

One thing you've probably already noticed is that the newer police cruisers are not sedan-style like we've seen on the road for decades, but more like an SUV. This change started a few years ago when Ford discontinued the Crown Victoria, which was the basis for their Police Interceptor. The new vehicle, still called a Police Interceptor, is based on the Ford Explorer.

Of course, they aren't quite like the Ford Explorers you are used to. Even so, get-

PAUL'S NOTE (CONTINUED)

ting them ready for the streets isn't just a matter of painting "Tucson Police" on the side. There are modifications that need to be made to make the new vehicles useful for our police.

The responsibility for that falls on some folks who you don't often hear about: the employees of the Fleet Services Division. 91 city employees work in Fleet Services, a division headed up by Tammy Smith. A crew of six from Fleet Services is responsible for what they call "upfit": installing the radios, dashboard equipment and sirens that our officers need. Carlos Castro is the lead mechanic on the team that has been working diligently on the upfit of these vehicles for the last few weeks.

In addition to this work, the people in Fleet Services are responsible for maintaining police vehicles so that they can be safely operated by our officers.

51 more new Police Interceptors are due to arrive next year.

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Many of you who have either visited or called my office over the last few months have met Chris Desborough. From his accent, you may have deduced that he's not a native Arizonan.

Chris was born in England, but moved to the United States several years ago. As of Friday morning, he is an American citizen.

Congratulations Chris! Our country is lucky to have you. Don't lose the accent though; we kind of like it.

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.

For more information, including a list of necessary documents, visit http://www.unitedwaytucson.org/vita_faq

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!

CAROL WEST SENIOR CENTER

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

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.

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. 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**

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>

