



PAUL CUNNINGHAM

WARD 2

March 29, 2018

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PAUL'S NOTE

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City employees and some of the rest of you get a three day weekend to celebrate the life of César Chávez. He is the only labor leader and the only Arizonan to be honored with a holiday.

In past years, I've written about the importance of Chávez and his movement. After all, what he was doing was trying to get a fair shake for the people that get food to your table every day.

It's also important to remember this weekend that, just like with Dr. King, Washington or Lincoln, their accomplishments were made through the sacrifice of thousands of peo-

ple who they led. Sometimes it's easy to forget that.

This week, PBS ran a documentary on Dolores Huerta, who was another person pivotal in Chávez's movement (she was, by the way, the one who started using the phrase "Si se puede"). If you missed it, I urge you to watch it. It is available on PBS's website at <http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/films/dolores-huerta/>.

Next weekend is another Cyclovia. For those of you that have missed out on these events in the past, during Cyclovia, a set of city streets are closed to motor-

ized traffic and people are encouraged to walk, bike, skate or whatever form of self-powered transportation they can muster up. It is also a street festival with a chance for you to have some fun with your fellow Tucsonans.

This year's route goes from Himmel Park (Tucson Blvd. and 1st Street) through the Sam Hughes, Rincon Heights and Miles Neighborhood before ending at the Lost Barrio just south of Broadway and Park.

PAUL'S NOTE (CONTINUED)

Performers at the Lost Barrio Stage include Salvador Duran and waila music from Gertie and the T. O. Boys.

Cylcovia runs from 10 am to 3 pm, with the “after party” at Lost Barrio continuing until 6 pm.

Monday, Brent Dennis starts as our new director of Parks and Recreation. I got to meet Brent a couple of months ago when he and several candidates for the job made the rounds of meeting with neighborhood representatives, community partners, user groups, Parks Foundation and employees.

I was impressed with his experience and his willingness to learn from us about the unique needs of Tucson's parks system. We have two big projects on the horizon here in Ward 2 (Jesse Owens Park and Palo Verde Park) and I'm confident that he has the skills and gumption to see them through.

This is from the news release we put out when his hiring was announced:

“I've never been more professionally or personally excited about a new leadership opportunity than I am in joining the City of Tucson's executive team,” Dennis said. “My passion for excellence in parks and recreation will motivate me every day to serve the residents of this beautiful city and enhance their quality of life. I can't wait for April 2nd to arrive.”

Dennis has had an extensive career in both the public and nonprofit arenas. Educated as a landscape architect, he began his public sector parks career working with the Columbus Ohio Recreation & Parks Department, serving as a Landscape Architect and Design Director. There, he had the opportunity to design zoological garden exhibits with Columbus Zoo Director Jack Hanna, as well as recreational facilities, bikeways, nature trails, and specialty gardens. Later in his career, Dennis served the residents of the Bay Area, working for the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department as Director of the Botanical Garden, the Conservatory of Flowers, and Assistant Director of Operations for Golden Gate Park. Most recently, he served the City of Anaheim as the Director of the Community Services Department, leading four divisions that include Parks, Recreation, Human and Neighborhood Services, Libraries and Golf Courses.

In the nonprofit arena, he served as Executive Director of the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculptural Park in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he led the organization through a master planning and long-range strategic planning process that helped propel it to the second leading attraction in Michigan and achieve recognition as one of the top 100 visited museums in the world.

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

The fight is never about grapes or lettuce. It is always about people.

César Chávez



CAROL WEST SENIOR CENTER

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

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:

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, April 3**. 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>

