



# PAUL CUNNINGHAM

WARD 2

September 15, 2017

**WARD 2 COUNCIL OFFICE**  
**7575 E SPEEDWAY**  
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## PAUL'S NOTE

The Santa Cruz River is why Tucson is here.

It's hard to fathom it if you see the intermittent water flow in what is now a wide trench on the west side of town, but up until the 1940's the Santa Cruz River was alive and flowing. Its surface was nearly level with the surrounding area and it was banked by groves of cottonwoods and mesquites.

Many things affected it from cattle grazing, population growth, dams and even an ill-fated idea from Sam Hughes to build a canal to redirect the water back in the 1880s. A century and a half of activity have made it hard to see why the Santa Cruz was so important to Tucson.

3500 years ago, the river supported intensive agriculture and a small community grew in the area. The first Spanish expedition into the Tucson area by Juan Batista de Anza followed its banks. The



*Santa Cruz River flowing through Downtown Tucson in 1889. Photo courtesy University of Arizona archives.*

Spanish settled in Tucson because the river and existing settlement made it practical.

I grew up hearing stories about what the river used to be, that's why a story this week excited me.

You may have read the news this week about how the Lower Santa Cruz River, from roughly Prince Road north, is now hosting five new species of fish. In is an indication of both sustainable, regular flow in the river and of high water quality. Both of these come from, and this

might surprise you, the two County run wastewater treatment plants along the river.

The snippets you heard in local media come from a report done by Pima County and the Sonoran Institute. It is the last in a series commissioned by the EPA called "A Living River." Many of these changes have come since the upgrades in the Tres Rios Wastewater Management Facility and the newer Agua Nueva Facility, opened in 2013. Both of these are along I

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## PAUL'S NOTE, CONTINUED

-10 north of Tucson.

The report verifies what many of us have seen if we visit the stretch of the Santa Cruz as it passes through Northwest Tucson: it now flows year around. If we couple this with the Santa Cruz River Heritage Project that Tucson Water is planning, a Santa Cruz river flowing from Downtown to Marana that most of us have only seen in eighty year old pictures could be in our future.

Other pieces of good news from the report are a further improvement in water quality and clarity, wetland plant cover varied with water presence in the river's drying sections and continued minimal levels of odor escaping the reclamation facilities.

Both the County and the Sonoran Institute are in the middle of a public process to gauge concerns about the river. There will be three upcoming workshops where the public can learn more about what is going on with the Santa Cruz as well as make suggestions. They are at:

Ellie Towne Flowing Wells Community Center, October 10, 6–7:30 pm

Town of Marana Municipal Complex, Second Floor Conference Room, October 12, 6–7:30 pm

Wheeler Taft Abbott Sr. Library, October 18, 6–7:30 pm

For someone like me who is a native Tucsonan and very concerned about water issues, this is an exciting development.

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Last year, we told you about a group of women that meets here at the Ward 2 building called the Helping Hands. This group of dedicated women crochet and knit for many charities here in Tucson. One founding member, Hilde Gawera, crocheted over 6000 hats for premature babies. She also created a special shawl for women in hospice that was designed to give them comfort and warmth, and taught others the pattern to get more made and distributed. In between these efforts, she personally cooked and delivered meals to the homeless, supported charitable work at her church and never turned down an opportunity to help someone in need. Young at heart, she recently celebrated her 93rd birthday.

We were saddened to hear that Hilde passed away this week. She will be remembered by all of us here at the Ward 2 office for her generous contributions to our community and her ever present smile.

## JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The city has openings for Public Safety Service Operator (PSSO). The Tucson Fire Department and Tucson Police Department are combining efforts to hire needed emergency and non-emergency operators.

There will be an open house to answer community questions about the position on Wednesday, September 20th, 2017 from 6:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. at 1310 W Miracle Mile (West Side Police Service Center Public Meeting Room)

PSSOs will be trained to answer 911 calls and serve as the first line of communication between the Tucson community and our Police and Fire services. PSSOs will be responsible for receiving both emergency and non-emergency requests for assistance from the public, passing critical information to our Police and Fire dispatchers. Dispatchers then ensure appropriate response from our public safety professionals across the City. This entry-level position promises opportunities for advancement within our future Police and Fire consolidated City Communications Department.

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## ARIZONA SYMPHONIC WINDS

Ward 2's Udall Park is once again hosting Arizona Symphonic Winds' Fall series of concerts. The Winds concerts will take place at the Lazslo Veres Amphitheater in Udall Park, 7200 E. Tanque Verde on September 16, 23, and 30. Concerts begin at 7 pm. For more information, you can visit Arizona Symphonic Winds on Facebook.



## CAROL WEST SENIOR CENTER

**2017 Senior Health and Wellness Fair:** This year's Health and Wellness Fair will be on Thursday, September 28th from 11 am to 1 pm. Over 30 exhibitors will be there offering services including mammograms, bone density checks, skin cancer screenings, vaccinations and hearing checks. There will also be raffle prizes and demonstrations.

**Movie Matinee:** Patriots' Day starring Mark Wahlberg, Wednesday Sept. 20 at 2:30 pm, \$1 admission.

## PARKS PROGRAMS

**Holiday Arts & Craft Fair Registration:** Vendor registration is open for the Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair in Reid Park. The fair is scheduled for Thanksgiving weekend- Saturday and Sunday, November 25-26, 2017 from 9 am to 4 pm. For more information, visit [tucsonaz.gov/parks](http://tucsonaz.gov/parks) or contact Susan Orrico, Event Coordinator, 791-4877. Attached is an event flier.

**Swim Fall Schedule:** The swim fall schedule began on August 3rd. For additional information: <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/parks/pools-and-splash-pads>

**Parents Night Out Program:** Parents Night Out at Udall Recreation Center on Friday, September 22nd from 4:30 pm to 7:45 pm. The program is for ages 5-11 years. Children participate in a supervised game, craft and watch the movie SING.

The cost is \$4.00 per child, and due at time of reservation. The cost covers pizza, popcorn and drinks. Register by Wednesday, September 20.

**Fall Leisure Classes:** The first session of Fall Leisure Classes runs through October 14. Session two of classes will run October 29 through December 16. Visit [EZEereg.com](http://EZEereg.com) for details.

Call 791-4877 for more information or questions.

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Tucsonaz.gov/  
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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, September 19**. 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>

