



PAUL CUNNINGHAM

WARD 2

November 17, 2017

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

PAUL'S NOTE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

El Tour de Tucson	3
Festival in the Park	3
Parks Information	4
What to drop off	5

Earlier this year, the Canadian Garden Council put out a list of the Top 10 Gardens Worth Traveling For. Right there, sharing the list with the Chicago Botanic Garden and Mexico's Las Pozas, was our own Tucson Botanical Gardens.

The Gardens are really 17 gardens located on six and a half acres of land on Alvernon just south of Grant Road. The facility also includes a butterfly house and a café. They've been a fixture in Tucson since 1974.

I say 1974, but really the history goes back just a bit further. The Rutger and Bernice Porter ran a nursery on their property. An-

other Tucsonan, Botanist Harrison Yocum, had already been running a public garden with an impressive collection of cacti and succulents. After Rutger passed away, Bernice wanted to donate her land as a public garden.

So, then it came time for Yocum's Tucson Botanical Society and Bernice's plans to come together. Much of the legal work to make this happen was done by Lillian Fisher. Yes, that was my grandmother.

The land was donated to the city in 1974 and the Tucson Botanical Gardens were put there. In 1986, the city transferred the property to the

Tucson Botanical Society.

Enough of the history lesson, what's been happening at the gardens lately.

Well, if you didn't have a chance to visit earlier this year you may have seen the promotions for Frida Kahlo: Art, Garden and Life. This was an exhibition inspired by the work of Frida Kahlo and her influences in Mexico. It was designed for the New York Botanical Gardens and its "national tour" consisted of one stop: Tucson. The exhibit had visitors from around the country and attracted inquiries from as far away as Dubai.

PAUL'S NOTE, CONTINUED

The attention that brought is expected to increase visits to the gardens. Numbers aren't available yet for 2017, but in 2016, the gardens had nearly 100,000 visitors with just over \$1 million in economic impact in our region. They also employ a staff of 20 local residents.

The current exhibit is Origami in the Garden and runs through the end of March. It features sculptures based on origami by artists Kevin and Jennifer Box.

There are also classes on native plants, lectures and kid's days available. But just stopping by and checking the place out is well worth it. You park your car and a two minute walk into the place and you've forgotten that you are in a busy midtown neighborhood. It's wonderful to have a "green" experience like that in the middle of our city.

For more information, visit tucsonbotanical.org.

I know a lot of us read the news about Anna and Ethan Mentzer, who were killed while crossing the street on the way to school at St. Cyril's church. All too often, many of us aren't as attentive as we should be regarding pedestrians and bicyclists. So far this year, 24 of our neighbors have lost their lives while walking or biking.

On November 19th, communities around the world will come together to honor loved ones lost in traffic violence and bring awareness to the need for safer streets – especially for people on foot and bike.

The Living Streets Alliance and partners will be holding a vigil at City Hall (255 W Alameda) and call to action for safer streets in Tucson. We will remember loved ones who lost their lives in traffic crashes on our streets and call on all of us to commit to putting an end to this growing epidemic in our community.

If you want to participate, visit livingstreetsalliance.org or look for them on Facebook.

EL TOUR DE TUCSON

Saturday's El Tour is for cyclists of all ages and abilities, with the main race covering 106 miles. Race officials say the event brings in more than 9,000 riders from around the world, contributing up to \$30 million to the local economy and more than \$48 million for nonprofit organizations.

Meanwhile, El Tour will cause many traffic restrictions. Check the link below for details. In addition, Sun Tran Routes 3, 7, 12, 18, 21, 22, 23, 27, 34, and 37 will be on detour from approximately 5 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday. Route 18 will be on detour beginning tomorrow at approximately 6 p.m. Visit the suntran.com for a complete list of temporarily discontinued stops and alternate boarding locations.

Traffic information: <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/tdot/news/traffic-alert-el-tour-de-tucson>

FESTIVAL IN THE PARK

Cigna and Tucson Parks and Recreation present the Family Festival in the Park - Saturday, Nov. 18

Cigna and Tucson Parks and Recreation are proud to present the 12th annual Family Festival in the Park. There will be games, prizes, face painting, crafts, inflatables, tennis, disc golf, and class demonstrations. Reid Park Zoo will have free admission and the Edith Ball Adaptive Recreation Center will host free swimming with an inflatable obstacle course. Volunteers from Friends of the Reid Park Rose Garden will be giving tours of the garden during the event. Entertainment will be presented throughout the day, and a variety of foods will be available for purchase through local vendors.

Please bring donations of canned goods to the festival to benefit the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona.

A special thanks to our event sponsors: Cigna, Pyramid Federal Credit Union, Bear Essential News, Tucson Water, Barbizon Southwest Model and Talent Agency, CareMore Health Plan, KVOI and K-LOVE, East Tucson Macaroni Kid, and Whataburger.

Who: Everyone

Cost: FREE, but please bring non-perishable food donations to support the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona

When: Saturday, Nov. 18, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Where: Reid Park, 22nd and Country Club (west of the Zoo)

Contact: Sierra Boyer, Community Promotions and Marketing Manager
Sierra.Boyer@tucsonaz.gov 837-8032 for more information

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 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>

Fall Leisure Classes: Session two of classes will run October 29 through December 16. Visit EZEereg.com for details.

Call 791-4877 for more information or questions.

**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**

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

The next Mayor and Council meeting will be on **Tuesday, November 21**. 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>

