



PAUL CUNNINGHAM

WARD 2

December 15, 2017

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PAUL'S NOTE

Late last week, I got the news of the retirement of Fire Chief Jim Critchley. Critchley became chief around the same time I became a councilperson, and we've become friends. Tucson will miss his leadership.

Jim joined the Fire Department in 1988, but his time as a paramedic dates back to 1982. Since joining the department he had served in a number of leadership positions before being appointed chief in 2011. He has also been on the board of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and was inducted into the Arizona Fire Service Hall of Fame in September.

Tucson's fire department has always been among the best in the country, but it's gotten even better under



Jim's leadership. Just this year, the department was given an ISO Class 1 rating by the Insurance Service Organization. There are 50,000 fire departments that were evaluated, and only 241 achieved this rating.

The rating, by the way, isn't just a trophy for having a great fire department, insurance companies use it to determine rates in different communities.

Even before the rating, Tucson Fire had a na-

tional and international reputation. In 2016, six Tucson firefighters were sent to battle brush fires in Israel. As part of that incident, the State Department sent firefighters from both the Israeli Defense Forces and the Palestinian Authority to train here in Tucson.

Our firefighters do more than just fight fires. In fact, most of what they handle is medical, or what are termed life support,

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PAUL'S NOTE, CONTINUED

calls. Here in Ward 2, for example, the last annual report (published in July) said that there was 1,214 fire and rescue calls compared to 13,903 basic and advanced life support calls.

This has meant that our firefighters, all of whom are paramedics, have a great deal of experience dealing with medical issues. This has allowed them to innovate. TFD and the Sarver Heart Center at UMC/Banner developed a new CPR technique that has become a national standard. Just this last year, our paramedics began to use tibial or humoral interosseous (in bone) in place of IV when treating severely injured patients experiencing shock. This allows for the rapid administration of critical medications and fluids during severe medical emergencies. Our department is one of the first to do so.

Many of our life support calls are repeat callers. Some of these are people with mental health issues, some are shut ins, some have ongoing medical issues. They need services that our fire department doesn't traditionally deal with, but 911 is often the only service that people feel is available to them.

We had a meeting at our office just last month about our this issue. Chief Critchley, Assistant Chief Sharon McDonough and staff from Interfaith Community Services met about Tucson Community Collaborative Care, also known as TC 3.

TC 3 is a small team, less than half a dozen staff members. Their job is to meet with these individuals, identify their problems and connect them to local social services. It's worked: a random sample of ten "high utilizers" showed that before the program, they were responsible for 352 calls. After connecting to the program, they only made 24. Not only were we able to find help for our neighbors, but that's fewer calls to 911 and less strain on our emergency resources.

TC 3 is an example of Chief Critchley always looking for new ways that his department can better serve this community. He's a Tucson guy, both a native son and a union man, and he loves this place. I hope that whoever we find to replace him has the same feelings for our town.

Jesse Owens Park will close for some much needed improvements starting next Wednesday, December 20.

The improvements are part of a \$2 million investment in the park, the money coming from impact fees and sewer line warranty payments. They will start with an improved irrigation system. The irrigation system in the park is getting close to the end of its useful life and was not designed to accommodate the ball fields that have been built since it was originally laid out.

Other improvements will include a new driveway, parking lot, shade for bleachers and a new lighted soccer field. My office also helped secure a grant from the Tohono O'Odham Nation to build a shade structure for the playground area so it can be used all year around.

The park will be closed through April, however we are planning on opening a few of the baseball/softball fields a bit earlier for the Little League season. We look forward to the ribbon cutting.

RABIES ALERT

On Saturday 12/9 a dead skunk was recovered from Jesse Owens Park that has now tested positive for rabies. The skunk carcass was discovered as it was being eaten by several unleashed dogs in the park. The dogs could not be found when the Pima Animal Care Center (PACC) officer arrived to recover the skunk carcass for testing.

PAC and Pima County Health Department are asking and recommending that:

- Individuals or family members that had any contact with a skunk near or at Jessie Owens Park notify them immediately by calling the Health Department at 520-724-7797.
- Community members who suspect that their pet may have had contact with the dead skunk or been very recently in Jessie Owens Park should consult with their veterinarian.
- Residents who live in the area of the park get a rabies booster vaccine for their pets and keep them under observation over the next few days for any changes in behavior.
- If anyone has information on the dogs that were eating the dead skunk they would please call PACC at 724-5900

WHAT'S BREWING?

The What's Brewing in Environmental Health series continues next week with a panel discussion on "The Impact of Floods" at 6:15 p.m., Monday, Dec. 4, at Exo Roast Co., 403 N. 6th Ave. Three panelists will address the science of floods and the impacts floods have on communities. The free event is presented by the Southwest Environmental Health Sciences Center and is sponsored by the University of Arizona and Tucson Water. Food and drinks will be provided.

WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE

Every December and January, we try to collect winter items for a local charity. This year, we are collecting coats and winter clothing items for the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network.

TIHAN serves people living with HIV from all walks of life and backgrounds, and also works to educate the broader Tucson community about HIV. Although medications are helping to keep people with HIV alive longer than ever, there are still thousands of people in Pima County with HIV, and TIHAN serves to help them live well.

For more information on TIHAN, you can visit tihan.org.

PARKS PROGRAMS

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

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. Copies also will be available at the Family Festival in the Park event on Saturday, Nov. 18, at Reid Park or can be viewed on-line 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:

Resident Registration:

- Online: Saturday, Dec. 9, 9 am., Leisure classes, Aquatics, and Gym I
- Walk-in or phone-in registration begins on Wednesday, Dec. 13, 9 a.m. for Adaptive Aquatics, Tapping Tots II, Gym II/III, and Therapeutic Recreation

Registration for Non-City Residents Begins Wednesday, Dec. 13, 9 am for all classes and programs

Registration Deadlines:

- Session 1: Jan. 2
- Session 2: 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.

Senior Olympics: Tucson Parks and Recreation presents the 34th annual Senior Olympic Festival. This festival is a celebration to promote fitness, health, and an active lifestyle among adults 50 years of age and older. Events include volleyball, bowling, bridge, racquetball, basketball shoot, pickleball, archery, golf, tennis, horseshoes, badminton, and so much more. The festival takes place Jan. 6—Feb. 4 at various venues throughout the city.

Register online at www.EZEEreg.com, the deadline is Dec. 29 for events from Jan. 6-21 and Jan. 12 for events from Jan. 22—Feb. 4. Entry fees vary by event. For complete Senior Olympic Festival information visit www.tucsonaz.gov/parks/senior-olympic-festival. Contact Amber Hart at TucsonSeniorOlympics@tucsonaz.gov or 837-8153.

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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 regular Mayor and Council meeting will be on **Tuesday, December 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>

