

Subject: Paul Cunningham's Weekly Update
From: "Ward 2 News" <Ward2News@public.govdelivery.com>
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To: EIGHEKONA@gmail.com



Paul Cunningham's Weekly Update



Paul's Note

Tucson City Council, Ward 2



My colleagues and I met on Thursday this week instead of our usual Tuesday. We had a briefing that was very appropriate given our upcoming Veterans Day weekend. We got a presentation on the SkillBridge program.

In the military, service members can acquire a number of valuable skills. However, it can be hard for a veteran to adjust to a civilian workplace and often civilian employers have trouble recognizing what a veteran can bring to a job.

SkillBridge is a Department of Defense program that gives service members civilian work experience by putting them in training, apprenticeships or internships during their last 180 days of service. They do this with a number of partners in both private industry and government. The City of Tucson is one of those partners.

Our program here in the city has increased over the last year. We had 4 interns and 8 candidates in our “talent pipeline”; this year we have 13 interns and 22 candidates. SkillBridge interns are currently in seven city departments.

As much as I think it’s important to bring in veterans because I’d like to see them supported and they are incredibly capable workers, there’s also a fiscal advantage for the city. We have saved \$200,000 in labor and training costs through this program.

I’d like to thank the other two veterans on the council, Richard Fimbres and Nikki Lee, for getting this update to us. Their leadership on veterans’ issues has been inspirational.

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Every year the University of Arizona Adaptive Athletics program picks a program or charity to help out by playing an exhibition game to help them raise funds. This year they have chosen to support the Arizona State School for the Deaf and Blind by playing wheelchair basketball vs. their basketball team. All funds will go to support ASDB’s sports programs. This will be a co-ed game featuring both our men’s and women’s wheelchair basketball programs.

The game will be **Thursday, November 14th** at 5 pm, hosted at the ASDB gym, 1200 W Speedway Blvd.

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The Regional Transportation Authority is hosting a series of open houses for the public to review and provide input on a \$2.46 billion, 20-year draft plan for regional transportation improvements.

The draft plan, which the RTA Board approved for public input on Sept. 26, includes regional transportation network improvements for transit; safety, ADA, active transportation; arterial reconstruction; environmental; and roadway corridor projects.

Open houses are scheduled for November and December across the Tucson metro region. There will be one for northeast side residents at Sabino High School on **November 21st**. Sign in starts at 5 pm. A complete schedule can be found at <https://rtanext.com/events/>

Community News



Mayor and Council: The next regular meeting will be on **Tuesday, November 19th**. There will be a study session with



a regular meeting following at 5:30 pm. Meetings are held at City Hall, 255 W Alameda and can be watched live or archived at <https://www.youtube.com/@cityoftucson/live>.

Ward 2 Recycling Presentation: Join us on **Wednesday, November 13th** at 5:30 PM for a brief presentation by the City of Tucson's Department of Environmental Services to help educate you and reduce any confusion you may have. You'll be welcome to take the information to your neighbors, your community associations, your church, your friends, your dog, anyone. It will be held at our offices at: 7820 E. Broadway. Hope to see you there.

Pollinator Presentation: Join Sustainable Tucson on **Tuesday, November 12**, at 6:00 pm, on Zoom for "Insect Apocalypse or Pollinator Profusion?" with entomologist Ken Kingsley, plus a look at some local opportunities for pollinator gardening. A detailed description of the program plus the Zoom link for the meeting can be found on our website (www.sustainabletucson.org), Facebook, and Meetup.

Buffelgrass Removal: There will be a buffelgrass removal event in the Pantano Wash on **Saturday, November 9th**. Volunteers will gather near Kolb and the Sabino Canyon extension. Details are on the flyer posted below. The link to register for the event is: https://www.desertmuseum.org/buffelgrass/pullvol.php?site_id=16616

Team Up to Clean Up: The City of Tucson, along with community partners, is organizing a citywide clean-up effort. Residents, families, students, community groups, and businesses are invited to join forces to clean and enhance our neighborhood. For more details, visit: [Team Up To Clean Up](#).

No Tools Needed: The city provides all necessary materials and will handle trash disposal.

Want to Clean at Your Own Pace? You can get recycled 55-gallon bags from your local ward office, courtesy of our local breweries For questions, email Steven at steven.laturco@tucsonaz.gov

Ready Set Rec: Ward 2's Ready Set Rec! van will be making a visit to Udall Park and Trail Dust Town. The van has equipment for all ages, including corn hole, board games, hula hoops, giant chess & checkers, giant Connect-4, giant Jenga, ladder golf, sports & toddler equipment.

The schedule for the month is below.

Ready, Set, REC!

Find the Ward 2 van!

- **Nov. 4, 3-5 p.m. - Udall Park**
- **Nov. 9, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. - Truly Nolan**
- **Nov. 10, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. - Trail Dust Town**
- **Nov. 17, Noon-4 p.m. - PACC**
- **Nov. 18, 3-5 p.m. - Terra del Sol Park**

- Nov. 22, 3-5 p.m. - Jesse Owens Park
- Nov. 29, 3-5 p.m. - Fort Lowell Park



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Tools & support provided by:



Looking for a hands-on way to make a difference? Join us in removing invasive buffelgrass along The Loop! Get active, meet new people, and help protect Tucson's native plants and wildlife. It's a great way to give back, build your resume, and get in a workout—all at once. Let's take action together!

Any questions or comments?
 Contact: Ben Tully – UA
 Pima Extension Invasive
 Species Outreach
 Coordinator
bentully@arizona.edu
 (520) 596-1838

Saturday Nov 9th

Meet at Kolb Executive Park - 1600 N Kolb Rd

8am to 10:30am



Register here!





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