

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



Paul
CUNNINGHAM
WARD 2



A beautiful Ward 2 sunrise

Paul Cunningham's Weekly Update



Ward 2's Sahuaro High School will be hosting a special event for those of you who love classical guitar, or for that matter, great music in general.

March 2 and 3, Sahuaro hosts the TUSD Guitar Festival. Sahuaro music instructor Phil Hemmo helped organize this event. We hosted a short concert by some of his students at my office a couple of years ago. They are remarkable musicians.

Much lauded composer and performer Olga Amelkina-Vera will be performing a recital on Monday night (donation suggested) at Sahuaro's Little Theater at 7 pm. Amelkina-Vera's compositions have been performed by guitarists in both the US and Europe and her work has been featured in films.

Tuesday, Hemmo, Amelkina-Vera and guitar instructors from the U of A and Pima College will be holding workshops and clinics from 8:30 am - 4 pm, with a Solo Classical Guitar Competition that's open to the public at 6 pm. These will all be in the Sahuaro Auditorium.

Hemmo is expecting 225 students to participate in this from across the region, so this is a good time to see what kind of talent we have in Tucson and Southern Arizona.

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We had another successful gem show this year, or, if you prefer the full name, the Tucson Gem, Fossil & Mineral Showcase.

The event has grown a lot since it hosted 1,500 enthusiasts at the Keeling Elementary School cafeteria in 1955. It is regarded as one of the better events of its kind in the world and we are rightly proud of it.

It's too soon to have full numbers from this year's show, but in 2025, the show had 113,342 unique buyers, about 43% of whom came from outside of Tucson. These visitors spent an estimated average of \$1,600 at local businesses. According to the W. P. Carey School of Business, the total economic impact for our region was \$230 million.

I'll share numbers from this year's exhibitions as soon as I have them, but I wanted all of you to understand the continued importance of the gem show to our local economy.

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At last week's study session, we received an update on the Alamo Wash Greenway project, and the project team is now ready to share its recommended Preferred Alternative with the public.

Over the past several months, staff completed an alternatives analysis and a first

round of public engagement. The team reviewed community feedback and conducted a detailed opportunities and constraints analysis of each route option presented at public meetings and on the interactive map last fall.

Based on that work, staff have developed a recommended Preferred Alternative for consideration by the Proposition 407 Bond Oversight Commission, which has final decision-making authority over Prop 407-funded projects.

The recommended segments include:

- From Glenn Street at The Loop's Pantano River Park trailhead to Broadway Boulevard: a low-stress, on-street bicycle facility along Sahuara Avenue and Chantilly Drive, with push-button crossings at major intersections. (This segment is part of the separate Sahuara Bicycle Boulevard project and will connect the Alamo Wash Greenway to The Loop as envisioned in the Prop 407 materials.)
- From Broadway Boulevard to Stella Road: a 10-foot-wide asphalt shared-use path along the edge of Loma Verde Park, following the southern and western side of the Alamo Wash.
- From Stella Road to the Aviation Bikeway: a low-stress, on-street bicycle facility along Jessica Avenue.

The segment originally shown in Proposition 407 voter materials from The Loop at Rillito River Park to Glenn Street at Sahuara/The Loop Pantano River Park trailhead is not included in the Preferred Alternative.

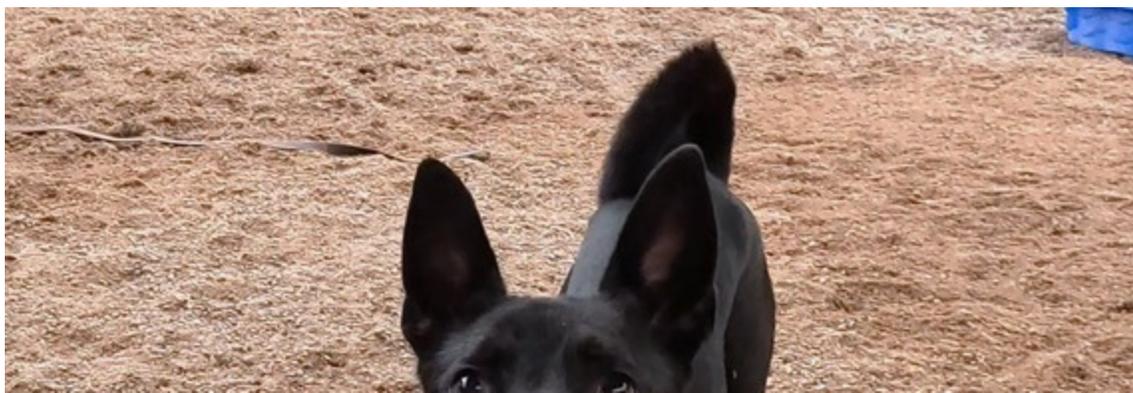
The project team will present this recommendation to the public on Wednesday, March 4, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

at the Ward 2 Office, 7820 E. Broadway Blvd.

I encourage Ward 2 residents to attend the meeting at our office to learn more and share feedback. The Proposition 407 Bond Oversight Commission will ultimately determine whether to approve the recommended changes.

You can find additional details, including upcoming Bond Oversight Commission meeting information, on the Alamo Wash Greenway project website under the "Upcoming Events" section.

PACC Pet of the Week





Shadow is up for adoption at the Pima Animal Care Center

Shadow – A887269

<https://24petconnect.com/PimaAdoptablePets/Details/PIMA/A887269>

Located At: Pima Animal Care Center – Tucson

Description: neutered male, black and white German Shepherd Dog mix.

Weight: approximately 44.00 lbs.

Age: about 1 year old.

Bio: Shadow is a young pup who came to the PACC with a broken leg. Understandably a bit frightened by the noisy shelter at first, Shadow has come out of his shell and is well on the mend now! Here's what one volunteer said:

“Ever tried to catch your shadow? You'll have your work cut out for you catching this one! Took him and his kennelmate to the yard and what a joyful whirlwind of playful puppy energy with the cutest curly Q tail! He tried so hard to get his friend to play but she was more human oriented. They did have a few good runs around the yard together. Once he calmed down a little, he showed me his beautiful sit, took treats gently and calmly accepted pets. He really is an affectionate guy after he gets his initial energy out, jumping on the bench next to me to give me soft licks (and sniff my treat pouch). What a cool and adventurous little dude.”

Shadow is truly a puppy and would love to find a home where he'll get all the training, play time that a puppy needs to thrive. Shadow shares his kennel with another PACC pup and has been social and easygoing when meeting other dogs in playgroup.

Community News



Mayor and Council: The next Mayor and Council meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 3**. 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>.

Palo Verde Park Concert Series: Every Sunday in March, the Palo Verde Park ramada (425 S Mann Avenue) will host free concerts for the community with local artists. All the shows are free. Bring your own blanket, chairs and ice chest and enjoy the music.

March 1 - [Lara Ruggles](#) (Folk)

March 8 - [Wild Swans](#) (Irish)

March 15 - [Dan Oved](#) (Country)

March 22 - [Mama's Kitchen Sink](#) (Funky soul, rock, blues)

March 29 - [Ben Tully](#) (Folk Rock)

Fort Lowell Events: The Fort Lowell Museum (2900 N Craycroft) will be hosting "Storytime for the Little Ones" every 3rd Saturday until April, 11 am to Noon. Please join them for activities for children ages 4 - 7. Discover the history of foods you eat every day, build a town in the desert, find out if bricks are *really* stronger than straw or sticks, and learn about the history of Tucson. For more information, visit www.fortlowellmuseum.org.

Lego Build Events: Build, create and explore at our Lego Build Events. Kids will enjoy hands-on Lego fun inspired by nature and animals. Come enjoy special events at Reid Park Zoo on March 14 & March 21, 5 - 8:30 pm. Zoo admission is required.

Mobile Meals: Do you know someone in your neighborhood who needs nutritious, low-cost meals delivered to their home by friendly volunteers? Call Mobile Meals at 520-622-1600. Mobile Meals serves all ages, including seniors and adults with disabilities. Anyone who has difficulty accessing the grocery store or cooking meals can sign up for Mobile Meals.

Mobile Meals of Southern Arizona is looking for compassionate volunteers to deliver nutritious meals to homebound individuals on Tucson's eastside.

With many of their regular volunteers taking a break from the heat, Mobile Meals urgently needs new drivers to ensure their clients receive the essential meals and friendly check-ins they depend on.

Visit the Mobile Meals of Southern Arizona website or contact Henry Gorton, Program Coordinator, at henry@mobilemealssoaz.org or (520) 622-2593 to learn more and sign up!

Step Up to Justice: Step Up to Justice has volunteer attorneys who hold free know-your-rights presentations for those who want to come. They offer several ongoing sessions, including The RENT Project (Renter Education for Neighborhoods and Tenants), The MAPP Project (Mobile Home Asset and Property Protection) and WORK (Work and Outreach Rights and Knowledge). You can find out more about

WORK (Workers' Outreach, Rights, and Knowledge). You can find out when the sessions are held and how to sign up at <https://www.stepuptojustice.org/>.

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](#).

SPRING CONCERT SERIES 2026

EVERY SUNDAY IN MARCH
4:30 P.M.
PALO VERDE PARK RAMADA, 425 S. MANN AVE.

🎵 BRING A BLANKET OR CHAIRS, PACK AN ICE CHEST, AND ENJOY LIVE MUSIC IN THE PARK!

	MARCH 1	LARA RUGGLES FOLK
WILD SWANS IRISH	MARCH 8	
	MARCH 15	DAN OVED COUNTRY
MAMA'S KITCHEN SINK FUNKY SOUL, ROCK & BLUES	MARCH 22	
	MARCH 29	BEN TULLY FOLK ROCK

 For more info visit www.paloverdeparkneighborhood.com

CALL FOR PUBLIC ART PANELISTS

ARTS
FOUNDATION
FOR TUCSON AND
SOUTHERN ARIZONA

GET INVOLVED IN PUBLIC ART

GET INVOLVED IN PUBLIC ART



Seeking community members to participate as panelists for upcoming public art project.

22nd St: Camino Seco to Houghton Public Art Project
Location: 22nd St and Old Spanish Trail

SCAN QR CODE TO APPLY



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
PUBLICART@ARTSFOUNDTUCSON.ORG
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