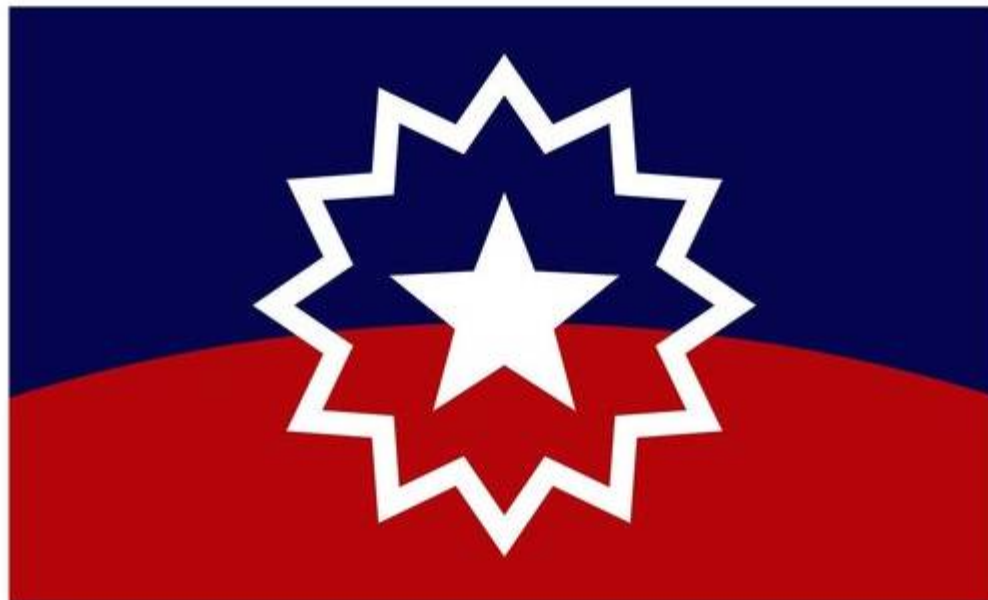


Subject: Paul Cunningham's Weekly Update

From: Ward 2 News <Ward2News@public.govdelivery.com>

Date: 6/14/2024, 12:42 PM

To: ELGHEKONA@gmail.com



Juneteenth Flag

Paul Cunningham's Weekly Update



Paul's Note

Tucson City Council, Ward 2

Our office will be closed Wednesday of next week for Juneteenth. Juneteenth is the day that we celebrate the day that African-Americans in Galveston, Texas were finally told the news of the Emancipation Proclamation. This is from the Smithsonian website:

Even though the Emancipation Proclamation was made effective in 1863, it could not be implemented in places still under Confederate control. As a result, in the westernmost Confederate state of Texas, enslaved people would not be free until much later. Freedom finally came on June 19, 1865, when some 2,000 Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas. The army announced that the more than 250,000 enslaved black people in the state were free by executive decree. This day came to be known as "Juneteenth," by the newly freed people in Texas.

Tucson's Juneteenth Festival will be at Kino Sports Complex on Saturday between 4 pm and 10 pm. The event will feature live entertainment, retail and job vendors, a car show, a kid zone, free toys and food trucks. For more information, visit tucsonjune19.org.

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Earlier this week, we had an issue in the pump room at the Udall Park pool. It may have led to canceling the next day's classes and possibly a more long term closure of recreational activities there.

Fortunately, our parks personnel were able to keep things open for the classes and subsequently got the bigger repairs done to keep things open for everyone else. Whatever interruption in service that there was there was likely unnoticed by most users of the pool.

Last month, you may recall that I was particularly incensed by the proposed cuts in pool hours. The cuts also caught the attention of the public as well, and I heard it from a lot of you. My colleagues and I put things right.

Of course, running the pools is not just a conversation between the council members and city staff. It also takes a team of experienced and knowledgeable people to keep the pools running. Mostly, you don't see the work they do because they get it done right.

Some of you maintain your own pools at home and it can be a pain in the rear end. Now, imagine that your pool is even bigger and that hundreds of people are using it every week. Everything from adverse weather to equipment failure to vandalism can cause a pool to close. Somehow, they keep things open.

I don't know if I thank the team enough, but I'd like to thank our parks director, Laura Hamwey

and her team at Udall that kept things going.

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Activists will tell you that the simplest way to solve homelessness is to make more housing. It's hard to argue with that logic.

In my April 5 newsletter, I told you about the city building 94 new units and rehabilitating 28 more using the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, or LIHTC. This week came the news that there will be even more housing built under the program.

Our Housing and Community Development department will be building 66 units in one of Tucson's historically African-American neighborhoods, Sugar Hill, near Grant and Stone.

In addition to this, Chicanos Por La Causa will be rehabilitating 96 units, and a company called Spire will be building 84 units. Both of these projects will be located on the southwest side.

Those three projects plus another project on the Tohono O'Odham nation make a total of four projects in our region out of ten that were awarded statewide in the competitive process.

Thank you to Ann Chaneka from our housing department and to those of you in the non-profit and for-profit groups that secured the credits. There are a lot of Southern Arizona families that need this.

Community News



Mayor and Council: The next regular meeting will be on **Tuesday, June 18th**. 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>.

Lead Paint Hazard Control Program: If you live in a pre-1978 home, or a child in your life frequently visits one, the city's partner SERI has a resource for you. The Lead Paint Hazard Control program offers free home repairs for qualifying participants. Call 520 222-8067 or visit seriaz.org/healthy-and-safe-homes.

Ready Set Rec!: Ward 2's Ready Set Rec! van will be making a visit to Jesse Owens and Udall Parks. 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.

Proposition 411 Mini-grant Program: The Proposition 411 Neighborhood Mini-grant program is now live. This program offers community members the opportunity to champion projects that reduce residential speeding and improve livability through a competitive selection process for funding and implementation.

Ready, Set, REC!

Find the Ward 2 van!

- **June 3, 4-6 p.m. - Jesse Owens Park**
- **June 4, 4-6 p.m. - Udall Park**
- **June 6, 4-6 p.m. - Fort Lowell Park**
- **June 13, 4-6 p.m. - Palo Verde Park**
- **June 15, 4-8 p.m. - Kino Sports Complex**
- **June 20, 4-6 p.m. - Jesse Owens Park**
- **June 27, 4-6 p.m. - Harold Bell Wright Park**
- **June 29, 6-8 p.m. - Reid Park Zoo**



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