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

A beautiful Ward 2 sunrise

CITY OF TUCSON

Newsletter
WARD 2

Paul Cunningham's Weekly Update

You've seen the signs up all around town. We have an election next month to extend the Regional Transportation Authority. The folks at the Pima Association of Governments sent some information about what the ballot proposition is:

RTA Next / Prop 418 & 419 – What it means for Ward 2

Residents in Ward 2 and throughout Pima County have an important decision coming up on March 10, 2026, related to the Regional Transportation Authority's (RTA) Next plan. Voters will decide on the RTA Next $2.67 billion, 20-year transportation plan and funding. This plan will shape how we move around the region, funding road improvements, transit services, bikeways, and more.

RTA Next Projects in Ward 2

RTA Next includes funding for the following roadway projects in Ward 2:

- *Houghton Road: Broadway Boulevard to Tanque Verde Road (Modified scope, final phase)*
- *Camino Seco: Wrightstown Road to Speedway Boulevard*

There is also funding in RTA Next for pavement rehabilitation, and I know the condition of the pavement on Ward 2 streets is a concern for many of you. Currently, neighborhood streets are getting paved through proposition 411. The larger main roads can be eligible for pavement rehabilitation with RTA Next, meaning that over the next several years continuing the RTA will make specific funding available for improving road conditions.

RTA Next also includes flexible funding to adapt to changing needs and potential growth in our area, meaning Ward 2 residents could benefit from traffic signal improvements, safety enhancements, added and improved bicycle lanes, and more. Complete details of the plan including the project descriptions can be viewed here.

It's extremely important to note that RTA Next is not a tax increase; you will continue to pay the same rate.

Ward 2 will be hosting an RTA Next presentation followed by Q&A on February 9th at the our office at 7820 E Broadway Blvd. City of Tucson Department of Transportation and Mobility staff will also be in attendance to answer questions about current RTA projects. I encourage you to attend, hear from RTA staff, and ask questions. Doors open at 5:30pm.

In the meantime, visit rtanext.com to learn more, sign up for their newsletter, list to their RTA Delivers Podcast - Regional Transportation Authority of Pima County and stay informed ahead of the important March 2026 decision.

Unfortunately, we've gotten to the time of the year where I need to remind our neighbors about stinknet. Stinknet, or Globe Chamomile, is an invasive weed that has caused some major headaches for communities in central and southern Arizona.

Stinknet typically blooms in March and April and this pungent annual is a triple threat of problems: it's highly flammable, can cause severe allergies, and outcompetes native plants. Two years ago, in Casa Grande National Ruins National Monument, 70 miles northwest of Tucson, the stinknet infestation became so severe that the picnic area was closed to visitors due to health and safety concerns. A little awareness can keep us from having problems in our area.

You can find out more about how to identify stinknet and how to remove and control it at stinknet.org. There are also volunteer opportunities not just for removal, but for education programs that you can sign up for here.

PACC Pet of the Week

Cardinal is up for adoption at the Pima Animal Care Center

Located At: Pima Animal Care Center - Tucson

Description: Neutered male, fawn Pit Bull Terrier mix.

Weight: Approximately 58.80 lbs.

Age: About 6 years old.

Cardinal is a cute young guy with a funny face that always looks mildly concerned, even though he's really a pretty easygoing boy. He enjoys taking a dip in the doggy pool, so if you have a pool at home, he'll happily come to relax! Cardinal would like to meet any resident dogs before heading home to make sure it's a good fit. Visit PACC to adopt Cardinal today!

Ward 2 will host an RTA Next information session on Monday, Feb. 9, 5:30-7 p.m. at the Ward 2 office, 7820 E Broadway.

City News and Notes

Mayor and Council: Instead of the usual Tuesday, the next Mayor and Council meeting will be on **Wednesday, February 18**. 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.

Fort Lowell Events: The Fort Lowell Museum (2900 N Craycroft) will be hosting "Storytime for the Little Ones" every 3rd Saturday, January to 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.

Arts Grants: The Arts Foundation of Southern Arizona has announced several grant opportunities. The links for information about them are below.

- 2026 Artist Grant

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 serve 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

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 that hold free know-your-rights presentations for those that 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 (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.

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