



CITY OF KUNA

CITY NEWSLETTER

March 2006

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To the Citizens of Kuna,

▶ **VERY IMPORTANT REMINDER! PLEASE DO NOT MAIL YOUR WATER, SEWER AND TRASH PAYMENTS TO P.O. BOX 68 IN KUNA BUT DO SEND THEM TO P.O. BOX 68, CALDWELL, 83605.** BOX 68 IN KUNA BELONGS TO A PRIVATE RESIDENT AND CHANCES ARE, YOUR PAYMENTS WILL NOT BE PROPERLY CREDITED TO YOUR ACCOUNT.

♥ **COMING SOON TO A COMPUTER NEAR YOU!** At their last meeting, the City Council approved an agreement with United Systems Technology, Inc. to allow citizens to pay their City utility bills (water, sewer and trash) online using credit cards. While we will continue to discourage receipt of payments by credit card over the phone, citizens may utilize any computer with internet capability for their payments. Citizens without computer access will be able to make their payments on computers at the library or City Hall.

The City Council also approved an agreement for scanning many of its permanent records into a records imaging system so that they may be available for research by the public. Soon, you will be able to access, via the City's website, copies of original records such as City Council, Planning & Zoning and Transportation Task Force meeting minutes and agendas, Ordinances and Resolutions adopted by the City Council, annexation information, business licenses, audit reports and budgets and much, much more!

Watch for more announcements in next month's Newsletter regarding the launch of both of these new public services.

♥ A special thanks to the Chamber of Commerce and Kuna High School for hosting the Mayor's "State of the City Address" on March 24th. Over 100 attendees enjoyed the wonderful Italian lunch. Also present were Boise Mayor Dave Bieter and Meridian Mayor Tammy deWeerd, along with officials from Ada County, Ada County Highway District, Library & Fire Districts, Ada County Sheriff, Ada County Emergency Management and others including our fine City Staff.

I will give a brief synopsis of current City affairs for those unable to attend: **Growth** - Kuna's current land coverage is 3,000 acres or 4.7 sq. mi and we are still experiencing a steady growth--our current population at approximately 12,600. The average residential home is 2,000 sq. ft. with an average value of \$166,000. The City issued 531 residential building permits last year. The radar screen is on Kuna for commercial growth to blossom within the next 5 years. We have had an average 22% market value increase over the past 12 months.

Budget - We operate under an \$11,000,000 budget and have set aside \$1,500,000 for sewer improvements, \$1,000,000 for water line projects and \$1,400,000 for pressurized irrigation projects. We have spent a record amount of \$225,000 for park improvements which included the receipt of matching grants.

Sewer - User rates should always pay for repair and maintenance of the system but this has not been the case in Kuna. For years, our rates have maintained the system but have not funded necessary repairs. New developments can pay for themselves but not for repairs to the older part of the system. It will be necessary to raise our rates a minimum amount in the near future to help maintain a functioning system. We have not had a rate increase for over 25 years and this has left us with high

expenses out of the general budget for repairs. We are still pursuing the contiguous annexation out to Lake Hazel for a long-term sewer plant system to accommodate our sewer needs for decades to come.

Community College – As a result of our continual growth, we need to be looking to our future for educational opportunities. Discussions with the Treasure Valley Community College will begin soon about bringing an entry-level college to our community. This process would rely upon Albertson Foundation donations. I feel Kuna residents need more educational opportunities right here at home.

Golf Course & Recreation Center - There are some investors strongly looking at south Kuna to develop a \$6,000,000 golf course to include a recreation center, ball fields & indoor/outdoor swimming pool. This would be far superior to most courses and would bring in the PGA tournaments. This would be an answer to our processed sewer water to use as a water application area.

Swan Falls Road Improvement - The Ada County Highway District applied for, and was awarded, a matching grant to widen Swan Falls 10' out to King road out to the Birds of Prey area. This project is worth \$800,000 and was the 4th largest grant awarded in the nation. We truly owe our thanks to ACHD for their hard efforts in getting this for our community.

City Flag - Our city flag design has been completed and is currently being manufactured. Within the next month or so you, will be able to purchase your own city flag from City Hall.

Police Patrol – A number of citizens have expressed concern about the speeding on our roads, I have asked Sgt. Jon Laraway to step up those patrols, so please drive safely.

Kuna Beautification - We are currently working on ideas for Kuna's beautification process. If you know of Boy or Girl Scout troops, neighborhood groups or interested individuals or families to work toward making Kuna look more professional and inviting, please give City Hall a call.

***** **Every 15 Minutes** *****

Kuna High School, working with local agencies and businesses, will be holding a very special and educational event for students and parents on April 27, 2006. Intended to educate students about making mature decisions when alcoholic beverages are involved, the program called "Every 15 Minutes" will involve activities including a simulated traffic collision with simulated injuries and hospitalization. Please plan to participate in this very important program!

Together we can keep Kuna a quality, friendly, family-oriented place in which to live.

Dean Obray, Mayor