



# CITY OF KUNA

## *CITY NEWSLETTER*

*September 2006*

763 W. Avalon

Telephone (208) 922-5546 • Fax (208) 922-5989

[www.cityofkuna.com](http://www.cityofkuna.com)

To the Citizens of Kuna,

I have never responded to an article in the Kuna Melba News before but due to the content of Mrs. Eula Cole's articles, I feel compelled to let you, the citizens of Kuna, know the truth.

First, the City of Kuna is not now, nor have we ever considered addition of a City water tank in the Forrey Heights Subdivision! The long-range (20 year) infrastructure study performed by Keller Associates identified the location of a site that would give us water flow for fire protection in case we lost power to our well sites. That site was across from the sewer farm on the south side of Kuna Mora Road on a ridge owned by the Bureau of Land Management. Keller Associates identified the best site, the easements needed and the approximate costs. The City has explored options and done its homework. I would urge any and all citizens of the City to come to City Hall and find out firsthand what the City has planned and upon what information the City relies, rather than listening to the rumor mill.

The taxpayers of Kuna deserve the truth. The former mayor and his Council chose not to bring the cost of operating the City (sewer, water and irrigation) systems current. Their policy was to keep everyone happy and attract developers by keeping the lowest water, sewer and irrigation rates possible. While this policy will attract development in the short term, such a policy sacrifices the integrity of City operations and maintenance, replacement and expansion budgets. Raising rates, while unpopular, is necessary at times to insure the City functions properly. Purposely avoiding the issue is not responsible leadership. In so doing, the former administration placed the burden on future growth and future leadership. Future growth should pay for itself but should not (and legally cannot) pay for repairs or replacement of existing equipment, etc.

The past practice of not raising connection fees and user fees (monthly service fees) on a regular basis to keep up with wear and tear and inflation has forced this administration to make large increases in your monthly bill. Since I have been in office (January 2004), connection fees to developers have increased as follows: sewer - \$1,800 to \$4,200; water - \$860 to \$1,270 and pressurized irrigation - \$1,000 to \$1,300. These fee increases are used for staff time to review and control subdivision construction including the application and approval process; for engineering to plan for future growth and for services including installation of equipment or piping, etc. needed to service new homes and businesses.

As Mayor, I have done my very best to provide the leadership needed to bring Kuna up to date and maintain a platform for continued growth—both residential and commercial--while trying to make sure that the appropriate parties pay their fair share.

I understand that change is uncomfortable, which is probably why I have been laboring under constant demands that I resign or face being recalled. My responsibility is to the City, and I intend to see through to the end of my term the policies and goals I have advanced for the City. Regardless of whether you agree with these policies or goals, I believe Kuna is headed in the right direction. The failure of the constant recall effort confirms for me that most of you also agree that Kuna is moving forward, not staying entrenched in outdated and unworkable policies.

My door remains open to all who want to learn firsthand where the City is headed and why!

## **KEEPING KUNA'S KIDS DRUG-FREE**

Kuna Kiwanis invites you to a parent and community meeting at Teed Elementary School (441 Porter Ave.) on Tuesday, October 24th at 7 p.m. to find out how drug use is affecting Kuna's kids.

Please attend this important community event to find out how parents and the community are working together to keep our kids Drug-Free. For more information or to help distribute flyers, please call Brenda Blitman at 922-9080.

Your servant and loyal Mayor, Dean O Bray