

The Kachina Newsletter

June 2009

From your District 3 Supervisor, Matt Ryan:

Dear Residents,

There is a lot going on in your community right now, and items I need to make you aware of.

We have an excellent finance team at the County that has helped us project conservatively to allow us to plan well, however times are tough. So far we have been able to absorb the impact of a downturn in local revenues, while also absorbing State program cutbacks and requests for money from our local programs to help fill the deficit that has occurred at the State level. This combined with additional future federal trends will affect programs. I will note funding modification that will affect or limit some of these programs below.

Community Clean Up and Fire Fuels Reduction Day

- Saturday, June 13
- Free access to Willard Springs Transfer Site

This has been a popular program with the community and one of my favorites. It not only helps people clean-up junk and excess materials that have accumulated, and for some to come into compliance with our zoning, but it helps reduce the fire hazard allowing for free discard of needles and yard debris.

Funding: We have reduced the County General Fund and have combined clean-ups with other communities on this day which will prolong time in line at Willard Springs for the clean up. In the future, Federal Safety Net Funds are expected to go away in 3 years eliminating our ability to fund this program. Using these 3 years to tidy up your property while also helping your neighbors do so should help one take advantage of this program while it still exists.

The County will permit **free** use of Willard Springs Transfer Station from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., located on I-17, six miles south of the Kachina Village/Mountaineer interchange.

In addition to tree trimmings, pine needles, bulky residential waste, we are also accepting waste oil NOT mixed with anything else, mixed household recyclables, plastic containers 1-7, aluminum and tin cans, newspaper, magazines, office paper, junk mail, cardboard boxes, household electronics including TV's, stereos, computers, monitors, cell phones, re-usable household goods and clothes – Goodwill Industries will be taking donations. Refrigerators/freezers/air conditioners will only be accepted with a Certificate of Evacuation or a \$30 evacuation fee.

Unfortunately we can't take everything. Items that will **NOT** be accepted include most hazardous materials including batteries and liquids, tires, dead animals, cars and car parts.

Hazardous waste can be brought to a special waste facility at the City Landfill (see page four for more details). Car or truck tires can be brought to the County tire facility. Off-Road tires require a fee.

For more information, call John Biedenbarn at the County's Public Works Department at 526-2735, or toll-free (800) 790-1990.

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Upcoming Events Outlined Inside

- Raymond Park tour and public meeting, Thursday, June 4th, 4:00 PM
- Picnic-in-the-Park, Saturday, September 12th.
- Neighborhood watch meeting, last Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM, Highlands Fire Station

Special Thanks!

The Kachina Village Improvement District would like to express a very special "Thank You" to **Mr. Clark Bean**, resident of Kachina Village. Mr. Bean took the initiative to update our bulletin board at the KVID Wetlands north of Tovar Trail. Get outside and take a look!

KVID Rates (928) 525-1775

The cost of operating a utility is quite similar to anything else in society. There is an inflationary affect and cost related to maintenance and replacement. Historically we have held off rate increases for prolonged periods. As we analyzed our budget we decided that this caused a dramatic hiccup effect. It was hard for community members to adjust their budgets with this effect. Instead, as the KVID Board of directors, we charged George Sereno, Director of KVID, in coming up with a long term maintenance and replacement program and to include this into an annual adjustment for inflationary affect creating a milder and more predictable adjustment for community members on an annual basis.

George and his management team have spent a lot of time and effort reviewing operating costs and the inflationary trends over the past two budget cycles. The need for an immediate rate increase has been mitigated by expense cutting countermeasures and best practices that have been implemented over the past two years. This is timely with the financial challenges that everyone is feeling related to the downturn in the economy and they should be complimented for their good work. KVID's long range financial and strategic plans do indicate a small rate increase may be necessary in the 2010 or 2011 time frame which will match our desire for a more stabilized approach matching rates to these plans.

Summer Youth Program – Career Center (928) 679-7400

Unfortunately we will not have the ability to fund this program this year. Again, it is one of my favorites. We had to make a choice between being able to staff this program for 13-15 year olds at a cost of \$75,000 or receive \$266,000 from the federal government for 14-24 year olds including similar ages as well as returning veterans countywide. More youth and young adults can be provided jobs and workforce training with the latter.

Raymond Park Improvements

Parks and Recreation

(928) 679-7613

The State has swept Heritage Funds which we were counting on for the improvements we had hoped to construct this summer. This will reduce our ability to improve the park by approximately one half. This project is on hold until we determine which direction to move. A similar affect has occurred with several of our other County Parks Improvements.

Picnic-in-the-Park (928) 679-7613

This year's Picnic-in-the-Park will be held on Saturday, September 12 at Raymond Park. This day has been a great day for the community to come out and relax. We have found a lot of interest with our public information booths and will continue to add to these.

Highland Trail – Parks and Recreation (928) 679-8000

This trail across the National Forest and a private easement between Fort Tuthill County Park and the east side of KVID evaporative wetlands is 95% constructed!!! We have been talking about this for 13 years. County Parks and Recreation and KVID have an intergovernmental agreement to allow the final piece of this trail to cross these wetlands. This is the last piece that needs to be constructed. Yeah!!!

Dogs- Are they out of control? – Animal Management (928) 679-8750

Not everyone's, but yes! Based on a neighborhood watch program, we had reports of several dog attacks, aggressive dog behavior on trails, and general frustration of dog behavior. We do have a leash law. Dogs need to be fenced in or on a leash. Unfortunately for those of you that do have well behaved dogs, we are intensifying enforcement in the area, but it does help to have you review your own behavior and what you allow your dog do. You can't be laid back and allow your friend to be loose and off leash. There is an additional piece on page six of this newsletter written by Animal Management on dog barking and behavior.

You are invited to join the Coconino County Parks & Recreation Commission for a guided tour and public meeting

Thursday, June 4, 2009

The tour begins at 4:00 PM at Raymond Park (Kachina Blvd and I-17). The meeting begins immediately afterwards at Highlands Fire Station #21, 568 Kona Trail, Kachina Village.

For meeting agenda and information about our parks, please visit our website:

www.coconino.az.gov/parks.aspx

Addressing E-911 Project – GIS Department (928) 679-7813

Coconino County, working together with local emergency service providers in your area, has begun preparations to assign a new street address for each residence in your community to comply with the standards necessary to establish "Enhanced" 911 Emergency Service. This will begin to occur in the next few months.

The following major objectives of the E-911 Addressing initiative have been identified:

- To provide a means for expedient emergency response by fire, police, rescue, medical and any other emergency services.
- To establish a property location that will serve as Emergency 911 locator.
- To assist in the proper delivery of mail, utility and other services.
- To provide property owners and the county with a convenient, accurate and systematic means of

identifying property.

- To name new streets and rename old streets with conflicting or duplicate names in order to provide for efficient emergency services.
- To support the County's move to the Enhanced 911.

All residences will be assigned a new house number and street re-naming will be required if existing street names are not compliant to the standards set forth in the Coconino County Street Naming and Standard Addressing Ordinance (NO. 2007-05). For example if there are duplicate street names in the area.

When this begins, official notification packets will be mailed to you. You can view the ordinance and learn more about the program by visiting the E-911 Addressing homepage on Coconino County's website - <http://www.coconino.az.gov/gis.aspx?id=12440> or feel free to call and speak with the County's Addressing Specialist at 928-679-8872.

Neighborhood Watch Program (928) 226-5089

Neighborhood Watch is similar to the Block Watch program commonly conducted in urban areas, and goes back to the concept of "neighbors looking out for neighbors" that many people remember from 30 years ago. It is one of the most effective ways to prevent and deter criminal activity, attend to home and personal security, address the safety of our children and the elderly and to alleviate fear and isolation. Residents learn how to observe and report suspicious activity and reduce the risk of becoming a crime victim as well as discuss other issues of interest to the community.

The Kachina/Mountaineer Block Watch Program is in its initial stages and the meetings are being held at 6:00 pm on the last Thursday of each month in the community room of the Highlands Fire Department located at 568 Kona Trail in Kachina Village.

For more information about the Neighborhood Watch program please call Gerry Blair at the Coconino County Sheriff's Office at (928) 226-5089.

Other Activities in Your Community

We are conducting a multimodal study in your community to consider future options for multimodal transportation. Soon, Friends of Coconino County Parks will be looking for volunteers to help us take care of the natural areas that we have acquired in your community.

I wish you a wonderful summer. There is much more that the County does much of which can be found on our website at www.coconino.az.gov. Please don't hesitate to contact our departments if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Matt Ryan

District 3 County Supervisor

Hazardous Waste in the Right Place

Don't know what to do with your accumulated household hazardous waste (HHW) such as oil, gas, coolant, aerosols, cleaners, gardening and painting products, batteries, electronics or spent fluorescent tubes? The City of Flagstaff's Hazardous Products Center (HPC) provides FREE residential recycling/ proper disposal of HHW year-round. Make it a group event, include your neighbors, stop by the re-use Drop & Swap area for FREE household products and visit the HPC at the Cinder Lake Landfill, Wednesday or Friday, 9 AM to 3 PM and Saturday, 8 AM to 2 PM.

Business hazardous waste is accepted by appointment only through the Small Business Waste Program (SBWP). Businesses must qualify and disposal fees apply.

For more information on how we can help or how we can provide you with a facility tour/presentation to increase hazardous waste education and awareness, please call (928) 527-9005 or visit us online at www.flagstaff.az.gov/hazwaste.

Multimodal Transportation Improvements

Coconino County, in coordination with The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), is embarking on a study to identify potential multimodal transportation improvements in Kachina Village.

Funded by ADOT through the Planning Assistance for Rural Areas (PARA) program, the Kachina Village Multimodal Transportation Study is working to identify needs and deficiencies for pedestrian, bicycle, and public transportation travel within Kachina Village and recommend a program of projects to address the needs. The study will produce a plan that will serve as a guide for community development, project funding applications, and project implementation. The study will also provide direction regarding environmentally-compatible winter roadway maintenance practices.

The first public meeting was held on May 20, 2009 to solicit public and stakeholder input on needs, deficiencies, and issues. A second public meeting will be held in August 2009 to discuss findings on the future conditions and to present the suggested identified projects. Details of the August meeting, including the date, time, and location will be announced in early July.

For questions or to submit suggestions, please contact Sunny Bush, Public Involvement Specialist, by e-mail at Katherine_Bush@urscorp.com or by phone at (602) 861-7440.

2009 KVID Focus Issues & Status Report

The prime directive of the KVID management is to maintain constancy of purpose in the pursuit of continuous improvement. We focus on five primary areas; administration, management, process, technology, and planning. Each year the utility updates its five-year strategic operations plan, 10-year financial plan then creates its annual operations, and capital projects plan.

This report covers some of the activities and accomplishments of the first three quarters of the FY '09 year (ending on June 30th, 2009).

Focus Area #1: Forest Highlands Reuse Study Project

Wetlands Purpose & Construction

Shortly after the Kachina Village Improvement District was formed, the wetlands north of the village were constructed for the purpose of disposing of the reclaimed water generated by processing wastewater from the village residents. The reclaimed water is pumped to the evaporation ponds where it is removed by evaporation and transpiration by the vegetation in the wetlands. At the time agreements

were made between the Audubon Society, the Arizona Game and Fish department and KVID for the maintenance and use of the wetlands by the residents, visitors and wildlife.

The Feasibility Study

A study was conducted by Brown & Caldwell, in 2007, to determine the feasibility of selling additional reclaimed water to Forest Highlands for use within their

community. The first and most important stipulation was that the wetlands would be maintained for the use and enjoyment of the residents and support of wildlife before any water was sold to Forest Highlands. The results of the study indicated the reclaimed water was of a suitable quality that reuse could be accomplished and the level of water sales estimated.

The Updated Management Plan

Forest Highlands, the Audubon Society, Arizona Game and Fish, and KVID met and agreed to create an updated wetlands management plan, which will support the use of the wetland by the residents and wildlife. This is a work in progress.

Focus Area #2: Phase 1 SCADA System Completion

What is SCADA and what is its Value?

SCADA is an acronym for supervisory control and data acquisition. A SCADA system provides for the monitoring and history tracking of operating parameters and equipment performance within the utility from a central location. The SCADA system is the central repository for collection of the body of corporate operating knowledge.

Supervisory Control

The SCADA system provides information about the water and wastewater treatment processes allowing the utility operators and management to identify potential savings and to investigate the feasibility of changes and the attendant cost reductions. Collection

and analysis of this information has already created FY '09 savings and pointed the way to significant additional cost saving measures to be implemented in FY '10. In addition the SCADA system controls the starting and stopping of heavy electrical loads to minimize the utilities' electrical costs.

Real Tangible Benefit

Although the total payback period on the SCADA system will be on the order of three years, the cost savings already generated by the system along with other operational measures have negated the necessity for a rate increase during the current fiscal year. Good news for everyone in these rough economic times.

Focus Area #3: Improved Business Management

GIS

In FY '08 the utility undertook a project to map out its assets in a geographic information system (GIS). Data was marshaled from the Coconino County GIS department, KVID as-built drawings, aerial photography and past maintenance history. This information was loaded into the GIS and provides an invaluable body of knowledge. Analysis of the GIS data provides historical information for generation of plans and engineering studies. Locations of infrastructure components are now centralized minimizing the time to identify and respond to emergencies.

Infrastructure Condition Study

During FY '09 an infrastructure study was conducted. The resulting study document and conclusions can be viewed on the utilities' web site www.kachinawater.com. Information from the utilities' GIS system played a major role in the generation of this the study results and the final report.

GASB 34 Inventory Update

The Government Accounting Standards Board title 34 requires that local and other governments maintain

and update their capital inventory on a regular basis. The utility updated its GASB 34 inventory in FY '08 which provided additional information for the five and ten year strategic plans and the 30 year capital replacement plan.

What is missing?

Individual and disparate inventory and maintenance records have been historically kept by the utility since its inception. The content of this information is difficult to gather and is costly to capture and maintain. In addition, the work order system is a standalone system requiring additional effort to incorporate maintenance history into the inventory.

A computerized maintenance and management system (CMMS) will provide significant value to the maintenance of the utilities' equipment records and will again establish a level of actionable knowledge to the operators and management of the utility. Then to integrate a CMMS system with the utilities GIS system would enable even greater capacity to understand the overall operation of the system and deliver management planning tools for the continued efficiency improvements that the residents deserve.

That's all past history. What are you going to do for us next year?

SCADA System Upgrades

The valuable information provided by the SCADA has pointed the way to additional savings. We hope to extend the reach of the SCADA system to include the remote monitoring of the lift stations and to improve the communications reliability of the SCADA system. This will involve the installation of some additional radios, PLCs and antennas to accomplish these goals.

Fine Air Diffusion & Aeration Blower Replacement

The wastewater treatment basins are used to sustain a mixed liquor (really, that's what it's called) in which active bacteria feed on the pathogens to neutralize the water and prepare it for final disinfection.

The new fine air diffuser system will produce power savings in three areas.

- First is the elimination of the jet-aeration pumps (a total of 30 horsepower 24 X 7),
- Second, the greater oxygen flux density (smaller air bubbles provide an advantageous surface area to volume ratio) requiring less volume and less energy to provide sufficient oxygen for sustenance of the bacteria, and
- Third, the replacement of the standard centrifugal blowers with a single turbo blower provides a 20% reduction in electrical costs.

Is your Barking Dog Ruining your Relationships with your Neighbors?

In all unincorporated areas of Coconino County it shall be unlawful for any person to permit, either willfully or through failure to exercise due care and control, any dog to bark or howl in an unreasonable, continual or unprovoked manner which disturbs the peace and quiet of any person or persons (Ordinance 2003-05).

If your dog's barking has created neighborhood tension, it might be a good idea to discuss the problem with your neighbors. It's perfectly normal and reasonable for dogs to bark from time to time, just as children make noise when they play outside. However, continual barking for long periods of time is a sign

that your dog has a problem that needs to be addressed.

The first thing you need to do is determine when and for how long your dog barks, and what's causing him/her to bark. You may need to do some detective work to obtain this information, especially if the barking occurs when you're not home. Ask your neighbors, drive or walk around the block and watch and listen for a while, or start a tape recorder or video camera when you leave for work. Hopefully, you'll be able to discover which of the common problems discussed below might be the cause of your dog's barking.

Social Isolation/Frustration/Attention-Seeking

Your dog may be barking because he's bored and lonely if,

- He's left alone for long periods of time without opportunities for interaction with you.
- His environment is relatively barren, without play-mates or toys.
- He's a puppy or adolescent (under three years old) and doesn't have other outlets for his energy.

Recommendations

Expand your dog's world and increase his "people time" in the following ways:

Walk your dog daily – its good exercise, both mental and physical.

Teach your dog to fetch a ball or Frisbee and practice with him as often as possible.

Teach your dog a few commands and/or tricks and practice them every day for five to ten minutes.

Take an obedience class with your dog.

Provide interesting toys to keep your dog busy when you're not home (Kong-type toys filled with treats or busy box toys). Rotating the toys makes them seem new and interesting.

If your dog is barking to get your attention, make sure he has sufficient time with you on a daily basis (petting, grooming, playing, and exercising) so he doesn't have to resort to misbehaving to get your attention.

Keep your dog inside when you're unable to supervise him.

Let your neighbors know that you're actively working on the problem

Take your dog to work with you every now and then, if possible.

When you have to leave your dog for extended periods of time, take him to a "doggie day care" or have a friend or neighbor walk and/or play with him.

Territorial/Protective Behavior

Your dog may be barking to guard his territory if:

- The barking occurs in the presence of "intruders", which may include the mail carrier, children walking to school and other dogs or neighbors in adjacent yards.
- Your dog's posture while he's barking appears threatening – tail held high and ears up and forward.
- You've encouraged your dog to be responsive to people and noises outside.

Recommendations:

Teach your dog a "quiet" command. When he begins to bark at a passer-by, allow two or three barks, then say "quiet" and interrupt his barking by shaking a can filled with pennies or squirting water at his mouth with a spray bottle or squirt gun. This will cause him to stop barking momentarily. While he's quiet, say "good quiet" and pop a tasty treat into his mouth. Remember, the loud noise or squirt isn't meant to punish him; rather it's to startle him into being quiet so you can reward him. If your dog is frightened by the noise or squirt bottle, find an alternative method of interrupting his barking (throw a toy or ball toward him).

Desensitize your dog to the stimulus that triggers the barking. Teach him that the people he views as intruders are actually friends and that good things happen to him when these people are around. Ask someone to walk by your yard, starting far enough away so that your dog isn't barking, and then reward him for quiet behavior as he obeys a "sit" or "down" command. Use a very special food reward such as little pieces of cheese or meat. As the person gradually comes closer, continue to reward his quiet behavior. It may take several sessions before the person can come close without your dog barking. When the person can come very close without your dog barking, have them feed him a treat or throw a toy for him.

If your dog barks while inside the house when you're home, call him to you, have him obey a command such as "sit" or "down" and reward him with praise and a treat.

Don't inadvertently encourage this type of barking by enticing your dog to bark at things he hears or sees outside.

Have your dog neutered (or spayed if your dog is a female) to decrease territorial behavior.

Separation Anxiety

Your dog may be barking due to separation anxiety if:

- The barking occurs only when you're gone and starts as soon as, or shortly after, you leave.
- Your dog displays other behaviors that reflect a strong attachment to you, such as following you from room to room, frantic greetings or reacting anxiously to your preparations to leave.
- Your dog has recently experienced: a change in the family's schedule that results in his being left alone more often; a move to a new house; the death or loss of a family member or another family pet; or a period at an animal shelter or boarding kennel.

Recommendations:

Separation anxiety can be resolved using counter-conditioning and desensitization techniques.

Bark Collars

The main drawback of any bark collar is that it doesn't address the underlying cause of the barking. You may be able to eliminate the barking, but symptom substitution may occur and your dog may begin digging, escaping, or become destructive and even aggressive.

The use of a bark collar must be in conjunction with behavior modification based on the reason for the barking as outline above. You should never use a bark collar on your dog if he's barking due to separation anxiety, fears or phobias, because punishment always makes fear and anxiety behaviors worse.

Bark Collars are specially designed to deliver an aversive whenever your dog barks. There are several different kinds of bark collars:

Citronella Collars: This collar contains a reservoir of citronella solution that sprays into your dog's face every time he barks. A citronella collar is considered humane and a recent study reported an 88% rate of success with the use of this collar. One possible drawback is that the collar contains a microphone, so the aversive is delivered in response to the sound of the bark. Therefore, other noises may set off the collar, causing your dog to be spayed even if he hasn't barked. Also some dogs can tell when the citronella reservoir is empty and will resume barking.

Aversive Sound Collar: This collar emits a high-frequency sound when your dog barks. Some are activated by the noise of the bark, while others are hand-held and activated by a handler. The rate of success for this type of collar is reportedly rather low.

Electric Shock Collar: We don't recommend an electric shock collar to control your dog's barking. The electric shock is painful to your dog and many dogs will choose to endure the pain and continue barking. The success rate of this type of collar is less than 50%.

For additional information please call Animal Management at 928-679-8750.

Kachina Village Improvement District

540 Jadito Trail
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Phone: 928-525-1775
Fax: 928-525-2529

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We're on the Web!
kachinawater.com



Help Protect Your Home from Wildfire

1. Create defensible space around your house. Remove leaf and pine needle accumulation along with other flammables within at least 30 feet of the house.
2. Cut down trees to create open space around your house. By ensuring that trees or clumps of trees are properly spaced (suggested 20 feet apart at the canopy), you can help prevent flames from traveling from tree to tree in a solid front- or crown fire. Properly thinning trees within 125 feet of your home and eliminating those branches that overhang the roof can improve the chances of protecting your home from an advancing wildfire.
3. Remove tall, dry grasses from the surrounding property. Tall, dry grasses provide a path for fire that can lead directly to a house.
4. Remove leaves and pine needles from your roof and gutters. During a fire, debris on the roof and / or in the gutters could be ignited by flying embers.
5. Remove "ladder fuels." Prune tree limbs so the lowest is between 6'-10' from the ground. Fire burning through tall, dry grass could ignite these limbs and climb to the top of the tree with relative ease.
6. Check your gas-powered equipment and garden hoses to be sure they are in good repair. Yard equipment needs annual maintenance and proper fueling. During wildland fire season, fuel your lawn mower properly – away from dry, flammable grasses. Hoses develop leaks and deteriorate with age and exposure.
7. Prune bushes and shrubs regularly. Remove excess growth as well as dead leaves and branches to decrease their flammability, and the threat they could pose during a wildland fire.

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