



Kuna Idaho
2019 State of the City

Presented by

Joe Stear, Mayor

November 14, 2019



Mayor
Joe Stear

City Council
Members

Briana Buban-Vonder Haar
Richard Cardoza
Warren Christensen
Greg McPherson

2019 State of the City
Mayor Joe Stear
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Thank You for coming out tonight;

I am very proud to know that we have so many great people that live and work in our community. Every success that we enjoy comes from working together as a team.

As we complete the comprehensive plan and roll into discussions on economic development, it has been very important that we form committees to include the public as well as local business leaders so that these decisions are not about what the elected officials want but rather the shape that the community wants our city to be.

I want to take a moment to thank all that take time out of their busy lives to serve our community. Planning and Zoning Commissioners, Park and Police Impact fee Committee members, Art's Commission members, Economic Development Committee members, Greenbelt Patrol Volunteers, and there is an endless list of citizens and groups doing things to make our community better.

We have a new website to provide more information to the public and it is so much more user friendly.

Our numbers still show that we have the highest number of military members per capita, in the treasure valley. The Veterans Day assembly hosted by the Kuna High School is an awesome display of respect and patriotism aimed at members of the military past and present. It is this type of selfless respect that radiates from the Kuna youth that makes our city great.

I would encourage you, if you haven't yet, to look into the School Districts information on the success of the many athletic programs as well as all of the other things these young people have been up to. It is quite impressive and shows the amount of effort and determination that our up and coming citizens have.

One of the most important things that one can do for a city is to plan into the future. Kuna had become a bedroom city where most leave here to work and shop and play but yet the kids go to school here and we expect for quality fire and police

services to be provided. What that does is puts a huge burden on homeowners to cover those costs without support of commercial tax base. That has created the responsibility of nearly 90% of those funds to be paid by homeowners. It makes it very hard for some to support levy's and bonds even though we know how important those are. So, over the last couple of years we have been working on economic efforts to improve that.

We are passionate about supporting the small businesses in Kuna. Last year we introduced a 3-part training series called the Entrepreneur's Bootcamp. We had 27 people participate overall, and we have plans to do a Marketing Bootcamp series in January/February of 2020 as well.

We have increased our involvement with the Kuna Chamber to help with ribbon cuttings, events, training opportunities, etc.

We are doing research on incubator concepts and are hopeful to introduce additional resources for small business in 2020.

We are working to implement an economic development strategic plan framework by the end of this year to help support our comprehensive plan. We held a workshop on October 30th with 28 participants who helped us narrow down our goals into action items for 2020.

We are in the process of doing an eligibility study for a potential urban renewal district with the intention of creating some shovel ready sites for industrial and to help with some of the other infrastructure challenges in Kuna.

We have had several new businesses open locations in Kuna this year including Taco Bell, D&B Supply, Dilly's Pickles, Creative Wraps, Sprinkles on Top, Eyecare Associates of Kuna and many others. We are also looking forward to Panda Express, Wendy's, Primary Health and CapEd Credit Union building new facilities on Highway 69. There are several other business interests that we are working with and hope that they will chose to make Kuna their home.

We continue to see increased interest in retail and commercial, and are diligent in meeting with commercial brokers, developers and businesses to bring in new opportunities that are needed for our residents.

We have been working with the Department of Commerce and Boise Valley Economic Partnership on several projects this year and were among the top sites

considered for 2 projects. We will continue to work with them when they come back to provide great options.

Over the next several years, our priority will be on commercial and industrial strategies to bring higher paying jobs closer to home. 95% of our population currently commutes to other communities in the Treasure Valley for work, so we are looking at what our skillsets are as a community and targeting companies that can help us fill those gaps.

Growth is one of the most visited topics not only in Kuna but across the entire Treasure Valley. There are many issues that come with that conversation. We always do our best to help ensure that growth will pay for itself as much as possible. For the most part we do not expand services to meet the needs of development but rather require that they be responsible to fund that expansion themselves.

Developers may be eligible for reimbursement on a project if the greater outcome benefits the community, such as oversizing lines at time of construction so that there is no additional cost to the city for future expansion of a utility. We always prefer to dig one trench and put in one line to prevent future inconvenience and waste of tax dollars. If the developer needs an 8" line to service a project and the city requires them to install a 15" line for future expansion the cost difference in that pipe and associated costs would be available for reimbursement. Funds are generated by incoming development. A portion of the fees collected go into a fund to pay back the original developer as well as to keep the city whole.

With this growth also causes concern for water usage. Over the past 3 years we have saved water because users are more conservative, we buy more efficient appliances, controlling waste where it can be controlled and by reducing the dependency of potable water for irrigation. Between 2017 and 2019 the city saw over 10% increase in population yet reduced water consumption by 23.55%.

2017- 656,000 MG (million gallons)

2018- 523,000 MG

2019- 501,503 MG

Impact fees are another way that we help to ensure that growth is contributing. With the implementation impact fees for Fire and Police we can plan ahead to expansion of facilities needed to keep our community safe. We collect impact fees for Ada County Highway District to make improvements as development occurs.

It is hard to appreciate the planning that goes into roadway systems especially with impact fees because it isn't until the roads are too busy that we shut them down and make the improvements.

Park impact fees have been collected and are responsible for the purchase of properties to help keep our Green Belt expansion moving. We have also used those funds for other projects such as the purchase of the Helen Zamzow's park on Short Line road. We will be breaking ground on that project next year.

We were able to get the splash pad up and running this year and it has been a great success. We replaced the sand at the volley ball court with actual volley ball sand and made it into a much better amenity. We have installed the exercise equipment purchased by the Mayor's Youth Council behind City Hall to make your workouts on the Green Belt more complete.

We are working to make all of our parks better including playground equipment and each year doing more to make them handicap accessible. They are currently working on erosion control along the creek and as a part of that will be adding an access path down to the water between City Hall and Indian Creek elementary.

We are working in cooperation with the School District to add pickle ball courts where the tennis courts are at the Middle School.

Our Ranger Program has expanded to include about 80 kids this past year. They get to go on field trips to places like Celebration Park and other fun places. The Ada county Sheriffs have been out with the patrol boat to explain water safety. The Snake River Birds of Prey have been out to explain about raptors. This has been a very educational series for our youth.

In conjunction with the Kuna Police we were able to get the Greenbelt Patrol up and running. This is a group of volunteers that will help to make our Greenbelt a safer place for all.

Our Kuna Police have been doing an outstanding job. Overall our crime rate has moved very slightly down from 29.1 per thousand in 2017 to 29 per thousand in 2018. For comparison Meridian is at 44 and Boise at 58.

Response times to code 3 calls have been reduced by 7 seconds this past year at 3 minutes and 15 seconds. These are the most important calls and even though our geographical area has expanded we are keeping our response times low.

In the past 3 years we have increased our police force by 6.25 officers. This has been critical in keeping our crime rate low. This proactive approach has allowed not only to handle calls for service in a time effective manner but it has allowed us to deter crime by engaging our public and learn of their concerns.

One of the positions created was a full time Juvenile Detective. We have been able to provide more enhanced services to youth and family. Detective Krista Ducharme provides the support the families need, as well as gathers stakeholders to create long term solutions to issues.

This spring Krista will coordinate a four-day symposium for parents in Kuna which will cover topics such as cyber-crime, electronic devices and social media. The hope is that by giving parents the knowledge and the tools they need to navigate the ever-changing technology; they will be better equipped to help their children to make better choices.

The position has also partnered with Juvenile Court Services to provide “The Parent Project”, a weekly class for parents with difficulties raising teens.

All of these efforts involving the Kuna Police Department have been led by Chief Jon McDaniel. I am very pleased to have him on board with the support of Sheriff Stephen Bartlett.

Grants are another thing that we pursue on a steady basis. The Downtown Revitalization project phase 1 was completed in large part to grant funding. Funding has been secured for phase 2 and we will expect to start construction next spring. In cases like that we rely on multiple funding sources. It is our relationships with the Department of Commerce, Community Planning Association, Ada County Highway District, Kuna Chamber and the downtown business owners as well as our very own citizens that make these types of projects a success. We are in the planning stages for 4th Street to continue on with our efforts to revitalize downtown.

We also are proud to assist the School District, Library, Seniors and others in their pursuit of grants. We all work for and support the same people so it only makes sense to do so.

It is grant funding that helped us to extend the Greenbelt and many other projects. They are currently working on several other ideas that will continue to enhance our city and to help provide programs for our youth.

You might have noticed that each year our list of events grows longer. There are several that we do such as Movies on the Greenbelt, Summer Concert Series, Popsicles with the Mayor, Candy Canes with the Mayor.

We will be announcing in early 2020 a Q&A with the Mayor series bimonthly for all citizens to be able to participate in.

The Mayor's Table event has been an interesting evolution over the past 4 years and has brought us around to a great relationship with Life's Kitchen that will lead us to other great things that will be a huge benefit to our community (coming soon so to speak). There are several others that we support such as Country Concert and the Renaissance Faire to name a couple.

Financially our City remains debt free and strong. Our total budget that includes Property tax, sales tax revenue sharing State and County, state liquor distribution, county fine distribution, franchise fees, business, wine, liquor, beer and animal licenses. There are administrative services, miscellaneous income interest revenue and rental income. Building licenses permits and fees. There is income from when people donate to the RV dump station. All of those make up the general fund.

We have grant revenue. Water, sewer and pressurized irrigation revenue. We also have revenue that makes up the reimbursement fund that I spoke of earlier. There are quite a few other line items in there that make up our total budget of \$46,622,383. It is all inclusive some monies are those that we collect and distribute out so it makes our budget totals look really high but it's not our money we just get our hands on it so it is included.

Our property tax revenue for fye2019-2020 is at \$3,200,344 our levy rate for last year was at .002735492. As levy rates go, they fluctuate based on property values in any given year. Low values have higher levy rates and high values bring lower levy rates. So, although it is interesting to look at the levy rate it is basically a multiplier number used to calculate your taxes. Most of us care about the bottom line on our property tax bill and not so much about what one entity is doing as opposed to another.

There are many others that add up on your property tax bill. If you live in the city of Kuna you have School other, School bond, Ada County, Kuna City, Kuna Fire, ACHD, Kuna library, CWI, Emergency Medical, Kuna Cemetery and last but not least, everyone's favorite, mosquito abatement. We all have business to conduct and need money to do so. I only have control of one of those but work with others to do the best we can to help keep your bottom line as low as possible. The one thing that I won't do is to blame others for your bottom line being too high when we all have to do our part.

In the end each entity is left to provide the things that they have to provide with what they have available. I could say that the Schools are causing your taxes to be too high, but they are left with what they have because of the influx of people into our state. I could say that if the state wouldn't have cut taxes by 30%, they could do more to help ACHD with roadways or do more to help the schools so that we could bring property tax down. But to place blame is not the Kuna way and that is not the Idaho way. It is up to those that you have elected to work together to find better solutions.

This evening, as we close out the State of the City for 2019, please join us for refreshments in the lobby and I wish my Kuna community a warm Thanksgiving, Merriest Christmas and a Bright New Year.

~KUNA, IDAHO~

**MAYOR
JOE STEAR**

proceeds
**2019
STATE OF THE CITY**



**2018
State of the
City**

Annual Christmas Tree Lighting



The community gathered to celebrate the season by lighting up their favorite tree and enjoy the cozy together!



Kids Holiday Cookie Decorating



The Kuna Arts Commission created a fun opportunity for kids of all ages to decorate a sugar cookie tree to take home & share.



Christmas Cookies at Reed Elementary

The Kuna Arts Commission and Mayor Stear donated cookies, frosting, and sprinkles to decorate with the Extended Resource Room at Reed Elementary School. Thank you to the Reed Elementary Extended Resource Staff for letting kids and I, and the Parks & Recreation Department and Mayor Stear come in to decorate these amazing cookies.



Kuna Kids enjoyed from candy canes with Mayor Stear, Santa, and City Hall Staff.

**2018 Candy Canes
with the Mayor**

Kuna Parks & Recreation Community Classes



Community Classes presented by the Kuna Parks & Recreation Department included:

- Garden Classes
 - Herb Growing
 - Beneficial Insects & Tomato Tips
 - Revised Bud Gardening
- Walk With Ease
 - A six week course offering adults ages 50+ a new way to stay fit.

Arbor Day & Greenbelt Dedication



On January 13, 2014 the Kuna City Council passed a resolution naming the Kuna Greenbelt, from Indian Creek Elementary to Dickard Road, the "W. Greg Nelson Greenbelt" in honor of his years of public service and commitment to community.

On Arbor Day 2019, a tree was planted and the Greenbelt was officially dedicated to Dr. W. Greg Nelson, former Kuna City Mayor.

2nd Saturday Summer Concert Series

Warm Weather
& Cool Tunes!

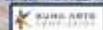


A new series of community events presented by the Kuna Arts Commission



2019 Music on the Kuna Greenbelt

Third Annual FREE Concert and Cornhole Tournament on the Greenbelt!



2019 Popsicles with the Mayor

And Splash Pad Grand Opening

Kids enjoyed free popsicles with Mayor Stear and playing in the water at the new Splash Pad completed in June 2019!

Hubbard Elementary 1st Grade Field Trip

DOWN N DIRTY

Annual Youth Mud Run Presented by the Kuna Parks & Recreation Department

Concert & Fireworks Viewing during Kuna Days

City of Kuna, Kuna Parks & Recreation Commission presented for a second year, a fun fireworks viewing to watch fireworks during Kuna Days with a FREE event and a live dance night behind City Hall.

2019 Mayor's Table

A celebrated community event hosted by Mayor & Mrs. Stear and the City of Kuna for the 4th year. The event continues to feature local products and farm foods and local musicians!

VFW Citizens & Police Officer of the Year Awards at 2019 Mayor's Table

A new addition to the Mayor's Table, the VFW presented awards to some of Kuna's outstanding citizens and police officers.

Awards were given to Mary Johnson, Lisa DeGroot, Detective Hyman Jones, & Police Chief Jon McDaniel.

TEAMWORK!

Spring 2019 a Parks Department Employee was struggling to remove a trash can and small tree from Indian Creek. Planning & Zoning Employees, seeing their co-worker's difficulties, immediately went to lend a hand. Their teamwork got the job done!

Entrepreneur's Boot Camp

The first workshop presented by City of Kuna Economic Development in spring and helping active business owners bring their dreams to life!

Envision Kuna

The New City of Kuna Comprehensive Plan Approved July 16, 2019

Through community input and collaborative planning efforts a new comprehensive plan was drafted and approved!

Development Objectives:

- 1. Maintainable Growth and Density
- 2. Healthy and Safe
- 3. Efficient and Sustainable
- 4. Connected
- 5. Diverse and Inclusive
- 6. Growing, Sustainable and Thriving

Thank you Kuna Residents for your help in creating vision and goals for this wonderful city! Thank you!

Park Ranger Program presented by the Kuna Parks Department

This annual summer youth program continues to allow Kuna kids to participate in a variety of healthy activities, community involvement, and outdoor experiences.

Kuna Police and Ada County Sheriff's Office spent a day with the Rangers!

American Heart Association - kids came out to talk to the Rangers about the importance of being healthy and to re-think your drink with healthy drink options that are not using added sugars to help add flavor!

NEW IN PARKS!



Park Improvements
New outdoor exercise equipment was installed on the Greenbelt behind Kuna City Hall.



Helen Zamzow Park
A new park on Huntline Road is coming to Kuna! Property was sold/donated by the Zamzow family to the City of Kuna for the Helen Zamzow Park!

Volunteer Greenbelt Patrol
Volunteers provide support to the Kuna Police Department in patrolling the Greenbelt on Golf Cart!



2019 National Walk to School Day

Encouraging kids and the community to get active!





Youth Q&A with Mayor Stear





Next year Q & A with Mayor Stear will be open to everyone!

Mayor Stear welcomes youths working on their lodges as well as any interested youth to attend a Q & A session where they can ask questions about their local government and community!

Website Update

Redesigned with the public in mind!




The updated City of Kuna website was rolled out May 1, 2019 with easier navigation, content more accessible to people beyond beta usability, and a privacy overhaul!



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO VOLUNTEER IN THE CITY OF KUNA



THANK YOU KUNA RESIDENTS FOR YOUR INPUT AND PARTICIPATION THROUGHOUT THE YEAR