

KINS COMMUNITY COMMENT (442-5744)

This is Ron Pierre for Community Comment.

Like a lot of people my wife and I like to read newspapers and publications on our mobile devices. We like to travel, and keeping up with what's going on is really convenient using electronic media. The pile up of the "fish wraps" used to get overwhelming in my recycle bin. Not so much anymore. Besides, I can carry the news from several sources in my hand and read anytime. On Sunday, I turned to the electronic version of the Times Standard and found out about the scheduled water system shut down. I appreciate the notification in the newspaper, however, had I not read the paper online I would have no idea that the area's water supply was being shut off for several hours for a "much needed" 50-year repair. I wonder about the notification to the residents who didn't see a newspaper.

I got the water bill from the city Saturday, but there was no mention of the scheduled outage ~~that~~ accompanying the bill. I think the concept of notifying residents of a water system shut down at the time they received their water bill blew past the leadership in the Eureka public works/utilities department. If there was going to be tax increase, or implementation of a mandatory program, you can bet that the bureaucrats would be "Johnny on the spot" to send out notices to residents. I wonder about the meaning of the terms "public service" and public servant. I find myself thinking that those two phrases are nothing more than a euphemisms for low quality job performance standards and no common sense. I guess the "thinking" part of the thought process isn't included in the job descriptions.

To share yet another recent example, I go back to this year's Halloween. I live in Lundbar Hills. Over the years, everyone knows that Lundbar Hills is renown throughout the area as "trick or treat" nirvana. On an average Halloween it is not unusual to pass out 600 to 700 pieces of candy to the costumed mobs. The city even recognizes the traffic problems, and puts up barricades to prevent people from parking in hazardous spots and the police regularly patrol the streets. This year was no different, and our neighborhood accepted the yearly "support your local dentist" give away" with enthusiasm.

My wife and I had to laugh because the city scheduled the street sweeper up into the Lundbar Hills the day before Halloween. The whole area's streets were swept clean one day before carload after carload of kids and families descended on the area. On the day after Halloween, many of us were picking up the trash and residual garbage from all the streets. It seemed to me that sweeping the Lundbar Hills streets after Halloween would have made "common sense."

Perhaps, my expectations are too high! Not seeing the reality of a given situation and the changing information methods necessary to communicate with the general public by government at all levels, should be a simple priority. I guess I'm just waiting for lightning to strike!

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