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Page A6

My View

Assessment increases sound alarms

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Call to action! Aug. 27, 9 a.m. at Sundial Auditorium. Please attend to protest assessment increases in these hard times.

The RCSC is voting for a 20 percent increase to the Preservation and Improvement Fee paid at the time of transferring a deed. It's going from \$2,500 to \$3,000 (on their way to \$5,000) because the PIF isn't growing "fast enough" due to poor sales. Increasing fees won't help.

The board is also approving loaning insurance proceeds from the Sundial roof collapse to the PIF to pay for the Fairway Phase II project. The insurance money was supposed to replenish the funds taken from the operating budget to rebuild Sundial. The deferred budgeted repairs to the facilities must be done before even considering loaning the PIF these extremely important funds. They haven't been. We don't want any more buildings falling in on us.

The "pay as you go" idea is being redefined it seems. The rush to finish Fairway instead of waiting until the PIF replenishes itself naturally is probably due to pressure from long range planning to begin building a multi-million-dollar theater here as soon as Fairway is completed. You can be certain there won't be a membership vote ... again.

The board is also approving \$294,000 to renovate Lakes West Golf Course. It's moot since construction has begun, and the course is already closed until November. This expenditure is billed as a 50th anniversary attempt to make Lakes West/East "the jewel of Sun City." That's a joke with a gutter eyesore as its centerpiece. Del Webb would roll over in his grave if he saw it.

Haven't the RCSC leaders noticed businesses closing all around us? Don't they

understand that members live on pensions and Social Security, and their health care is being threatened? Don't they know there won't be any cost-of-living increases in Social Security but that there will be increased premiums for Medicare?

I was told recently the goal of the PIF is to discourage poor people from moving into Sun City. And increased assessments are forcing the poor to sell out. These folks (who can least afford it) are finding they have to pay the PIF for the buyer just to make the sale.

The Sun City Formula Registry sounds a call to action when the board goes off course. This call to action is the loudest yet.

Anne Stewart is publisher of annereport.com.