

City of Willcox Newsletter January 2009

The (New) City Limits

Patrick McCourt, City Manager

The new City Manager arrived in town January 5; his name is Pat McCourt (Age 59.5). His wife's name is Gwen McCourt (it's not polite to ask a woman her age). She is a Registered Nurse and is currently still in Alamogordo where she is finishing up some obligations. They have five children (all grown and spread over the Midwest and Southwest; California, Arizona, Texas, New Mexico, and Missouri). They have 10 grandchildren, with one more due in April. The McCourt's are currently visiting each other on alternating weekends until Gwen relocates. Pat's primary off-duty job is to get the housing arranged for Gwen's arrival.

Pat has worked in local government almost thirty years with time in Arizona as an assistant City Manager in Springerville, County Manager in Apache County, and City Manager in Page. He most recently was the City Manager of Alamogordo, New Mexico and prior to Alamogordo worked as the City Administrator of Osage Beach, Missouri. In his last two positions, his tenure as been eight and one half years and ten and one half years respectively.

The McCourt's look forward to meeting the residents of Willcox, and started out by serving hot cider and chocolate at the Christmas parade (courtesy of the Chamber of Commerce). They managed to get everyone served with a minimal amount of mess and delay. We are not sure as of this writing what they will be doing during Wings Over Willcox, but they will definitely be participating.



Libraries: An American Value

Tom Miner, Library Director

Libraries in America are cornerstones of the communities they serve. Free access to books, ideas, resources, and information in America's libraries is imperative for education, enjoyment, employment, and self-government.

Libraries are a legacy to each generation, offering the heritage of the past and the promise of the future. To ensure that libraries flourish and have the freedom to promote and protect the public good in the 21st century, we believe certain principles must be guaranteed.

To that end, we affirm this contract with the people we serve:

- * We defend the constitutional rights of all individuals, including children and teenagers, to use the library's resources and services;
- * We value our nation's diversity and strive to reflect that diversity by providing a full spectrum of resources and services to the communities we serve;
- * We affirm the responsibility and right of all parents and guardians to guide their own children's use of the library and its resources and services;
- * We connect people and ideas by helping each person select from and effectively use the library's resources;
- * We protect each individual's privacy and confidentiality in the use of library resources and services;
- * We protect the rights of individuals to express their opinions about library resources and services;
- * We celebrate and preserve our democratic society by making available the widest possible range of viewpoints, opinions and ideas, so that all individuals have the opportunity to become lifelong learners – informed, literate, educated, and culturally enriched.

Change is constant, but these principles transcend change and endure in a dynamic technological, social, and political environment.

By embracing these principles, libraries in the United States can contribute to a future that values and protects freedom of speech in a world that celebrates both our similarities and our differences, respects individuals and their beliefs, and holds all persons truly equal and free.

--Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association, Feb 3, 1999

Ten years later, those words are still just as true today. The Elsie S. Hogan Community Library embraces, supports and defends these very same principles. We feel that we owe it to all of you, our citizens, and are proud to serve this community.

We hope each and every one of you has a safe, happy and prosperous New Year. Come "check us out". Our Library motto this year is: Come spend some quality time in 2009 '@ Your Library'