

City of Willcox Newsletter April 2010

Bits and Pieces

Pat McCourt, City Manager

As I sit and write this it is April 9th and the publication date is April 28th. I look forward and ponder what information needs to be sent out that will still matter on April 28?

I want to thank those individuals and groups that participated in the Spring City cleanup on April 24th, this is a good example of individuals making a difference in the Community – not because they receive any personal benefit from the participation. It is just the right thing to do.

The City is assembling the budget for next year (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011). Like many of you have received individually, the City of Willcox has received several unpleasant reductions in income in the last three years. The City has recognized that the reduction in income does not mean that it is okay to reduce services. The City Council and City staff understand that you still need Police and Fire protection, still want parks that you and your families can enjoy and use, you still need the resources of the Library, still want the potholes filled, and the streets repaired, still need good water delivered to your house, and on the other end need the sewage removed. The City has had to reduce services, the Mayor and Council and Staff has strived to minimize the impact of the reductions on you, our citizens. We will continue to look for ways to operate more efficiently and effectively. The City exists to deliver services to all the people, visitors, and businesses that live and work here. We are committed to continue to provide the best service possible to you. We are committed to improving our City, our Home.

Speaking of streets, did you notice Fremont east of Bisbee has received major repairs, or that Bisbee north of Rex Allen has received major repairs? Pot holes continue to spring up and the City continues to fill them, we have used 118.68 tons of asphalt for pothole repair between January 2010 and March 2010.

I thank all of you who took the time to participate in the U.S. Census; this has a huge impact on the income the City receives from the State of Arizona, and will have a huge impact for the next ten years. Your participation brings our money back to Willcox instead of it going to some other community. The money is then used to pay for the services listed above.

Have you seen the improvements at the Library? If you only drive by, then you only see the door has been moved. Inside is a new building; designed to service the needs of the community into the future. Stop by and talk to the staff. Libraries are not just books, they are the Internet, they are people, they are your source of information to protect you, they are dreams, they are hopes, they are yesterday, today, and tomorrow. And they are all yours.

What Does the Library Mean to You?

Tom Miner, Library Director

It has been awhile since I have addressed this question. I would like for all of you to stop for a moment and think about that. In reality, a Library means a lot of different things to different people. Indeed, you would probably find it difficult to get any two people to agree on what it means to them. If you could use only **one word** to describe a Library, which one would it be? Books? Knowledge? A Place? Learning? Computers? Technology? It's pretty difficult to put it in one simple word, isn't it? That's because Libraries have been around ever since mankind learned how to write sentences. Sure, those single words above are true and somewhat descriptive, but we are SO much more today! You can't use just one word to describe it today, can you? We are constantly changing and evolving, and have over the millennia. We are a mirror of society, and all of us reflect our own communities, and our fundamental democratic principles.

Here is another question to ponder: Why do we call ourselves a "Community Library"? Is it because it belongs to the *entire* community? Sure! Of course it does. And we are here to serve all of you, without exception. But, there is a lot more to it than that. Let's just focus for a moment on the word **Community**, and then see how it ties in to the word **Library**. Moving through the alphabet, I am going to give you one community-related word at a time, and ask you to *really think about it*, and then apply those thoughts to the Library. I think the results will delight you and give you a whole new perspective of what a Library is today, that perhaps you had never thought of, or had forgotten. Here goes:

Activities; Adults; Bingo; Borrow; Children; City; Commons; Community; Concerts; Crafts; Culture; Dances (remember CHIRP and Salsa?); Education; Events; Games; Gather; History; Information; Jobs (search); Learn; Lectures; Loan; Meetings; Members; Movies; Music; Neighborhood; News; Plays; Read; Recreation; Relaxation; Resources; Seniors; Share; Social; Sports (discussion); Teens; (Reader's) Theater; Town; Volunteers; and Workshops. Now I ask you again, "What does the Library mean to you - now?", and perhaps now you can also see why it is important to renovate, modernize and expand it from time to time – for the benefit of **all**.

We hope you will put all of these words together and come visit us soon "@ Your Library®"!

From the Office of the City Clerk...

Cristina G. Whelan, CMC

City Council Meeting

Monday
May 3, 2010

&

Monday
May 17, 2010

7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers
300 West Rex Allen Drive

NOTE: There will be a Special Meeting held on Thursday, May 20, 2010 at 6:00 PM at the Council Chambers to swear in the newly-elected and re-elected Council Members.