

City of Willcox Newsletter Aug 2010

A Skate Park in Willcox?

Pat McCourt, City Manager

The people of Willcox are not known as skateboarders; Football Fans, Basketball Fans, Soccer Fans, Baseball Fans, you bet - all of the above! But skateboarders are a different sort. They are our youth who shoot around on boards with roller skate wheels on the bottom - now who would ever think of doing a thing like that? How can that actually be a sport? How can shooting up vertically in the air and doing a double twist, landing on a vertical surface which inclines down, require any athletic ability? How can jumping up three feet in the air while your board does tight spirals below you, and then land perfectly on it, use a skill set?

I am no spring chicken; I recently celebrated my 61st birthday. I remember building a scooter with boards and roller skate wheels when I was young. I remember taking my son to the skate board center in Springfield, Missouri so he could practice on some real obstacles. My son still skates with his son (although he tells me it seems to be a lot harder than he remembered it being). Skateboarding is here to stay. We have a lot of youth who will try it, and like any sport, a lot of them will not continue; but many of them will find it is their niche.

We were all kids once. We know kids are going to do things. We can help them do them in the right way.

There is a concerned group of citizens in Willcox who have been diligently working to have constructed a Skateboard Park where this group of our youth can enjoy their sport safely and without interfering with the rights of other people. There is a site available – the Old Police Station. It needs work to prepare it for use – just like every other sport, you need a playing field. This group has raised \$9,500 to date, **but there is a lot more needed.** The Skateboard Park can be built in phases. There is an immediate need for 39 cubic yards of concrete and reinforcing steel to build the “base”. There is a need for four-foot chain link fencing to surround the area, to protect bystanders from “flying boards”. There is a need for “safe obstacles” (ramps, half pipes, rails, etc) to practice on. There is a dedicated Trust Account at the City. Donations of money and materials are tax deductible.

In this time, when we shake our heads and say “Why don’t the youth get outside and do something?” we can help provide them the incentive and a way to do exactly that.

Please step up and help our youth. Thank you.

“BACK TO BASICS” REGARDING PROPER LIBRARY ETIQUETTE

Tom Miner, Library Director

Although we have brought many new and exciting changes to your Community Library in recent months, and will be bringing some **more** new and wonderful things in the coming months, I have noticed an alarming trend among our patrons, which I feel I must address. Sometimes it becomes important to go “back to the basics”. I **really** need the public’s support on these two items:

1. PLEASE – Bring your **LIBRARY CARD** in with you. This is **very important**, in light of the upgraded technology we have in place now at the Library. For the past couple of years, we have been trying very hard to give the community a new, modern facility, with the most up-to-date technology, so that **no one** is at a disadvantage when compared to the larger metropolitan area libraries. The result was three things: **(a)** We recently made a quantum leap in terms of our Automated Library System (ALS) – literally, we jumped up **three newer versions** from our seven-year-old system – in order to serve you better, faster, and more efficiently. The new system, already in wide use all across the country, **begins** with your Patron ID Card number. Everything flows from that starting point and format. It has become extremely difficult for us to help you, without that **one important item!** It’s like your Safeway Rewards Card, or ALCO, or ACE Hardware, or Auto Zone card, to name a few locally. They may save you money, but since our services are already FREE, your Library card saves you TIME, and your time is important, to you and to us. **(b)** You **must have your library card** in order to use the Public Computer (PC) Self-Reservation System. It protects you, and it protects us as far as the AZ Revised Statutes go! It gives **parents** the control (and responsibility) over what their children may view on the Internet, while ending guesswork by us on which computers to authorize, filtered or unfiltered. This has been a BIG problem for us this summer, and impeded our service to other patrons, having to look up names, see if they have been authorized by their parents to have access to the Internet (alone), or if they are “blocked” due to unpaid fines, etc, before giving them a temporary card to use. And **(c)**, you **must have your card** and not be blocked, to use our speedy new Self-Checkout Machine. This is really a time saver, and the patrons that take advantage of it, really love it! It is quick and easy, and the machine guides you through the process. Just remember one thing and you will love it too: Scan the **Library bar code** inside the front cover of the book - **not** the publisher’s bar code on the back!

2. PLEASE – Either **turn off your CELL PHONE**, or turn it to vibrate, when you are in the Library. Again, we try to be accommodating, but this is simply getting out of hand. We have signs posted all over the library, asking people to either take (or make) their calls **out in the vestibule**, where we just installed two **very comfortable** leather chairs, or **in the back hallway**, where you can pace back and forth at will, and **not** carry on a full-voiced conversation in the main Library. That is just common courtesy, folks, and we suspect that you *really* would rather not have the whole Library hear all of your private conversation, or half of it anyway, am I right?

Thank you for your support and cooperation on these two important matters.

From the Office of the City Clerk...

Cristina G. Whelan, CMC

City Council Meetings

PLEASE NOTE DAY: TUESDAY
PLEASE NOTE DATE: Sept 7, 2010
(due to the Labor Day Holiday)

&

Monday
Sept 20, 2010

7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers

300 W. Rex Allen Drive