

City of Willcox Newsletter February 2011

THANK YOU TO OUR WILLCOX FIRE DEPARTMENT

Sherry Lynn Van Allen-Teeters, Human Resources Office

It has now been a couple of weeks since the devastating fire that swept through portions of our high school. This tragic event sent many mixed emotions throughout our community, from extreme sadness to anger... asking "why Willcox?" Well, school has resumed and the community is beginning to plan benefits and fundraisers to help rebuild and replace so many of the lost items. Textbooks, lockers, and other items that contributed to our high school's education system were lost or damaged. Now, the school deals with the insurance adjusters and other agencies in sorting out the necessary paperwork and details.

One very large debit of gratitude is owed to the quick response of the Willcox Fire Department. Chief Weaver and his brave crews of volunteer men and women spent many long hours saving our High School from complete devastation. The heroic stories are beginning to surface about our brave men and women battling the flames in some dangerous conditions, in order to save everything they could. Chief Weaver and the entire Fire Department will say they were "just doing their job". Yes, they were doing their job, but in this case, they fought that fire for the benefit of the whole City. They were able to save a large part of our high school's history, and demonstrated courage, teamwork and determination. Past alumni and future high school attendees will always remember the efforts put forth by the Willcox Fire Department, and those businesses and individuals that assisted them in various other ways, to help save our high school.

For information on assisting with fundraising or with donations, contact Sally White at W.A.S.A. If you see a Willcox firefighter around town, be sure to say "Thanks".

New Sales Tax Payment Process

Ruth Graham, Finance Director

On December 20, 2010, the Willcox City Council approved a contract with Revenue Discovery Systems (RDS) for third-party sales tax collections on behalf of the City. As a result, effective with tax payments due from April 1, 2011 forward (for March sales reported in April), the City's portion of the sales taxes due will be processed by RDS. Only the state and county portions of the taxes due will continue to be sent to the Arizona Department of Revenue (ADOR) using the Transaction Privilege Tax (TPT) Form 1. RDS, in partnership with the City, will be hosting a series of taxpayer education sessions in Willcox in early March. At these meetings, tax experts from RDS will present the new tax payment process and answer any questions from attendees. All individuals interested or involved in paying sales taxes are encouraged to attend. In addition to these meetings, information regarding these changes will be placed on the ADOR website, www.azdor.gov. ADOR will also e-mail notices to their on-line filers, and place notices in mailings of the TPT Form 1 tax forms. RDS will also be sending out information to

each business taxpayer at the address of record on file with ADOR with information about the meetings and the new process. For further information, please contact RDS via their toll free number at (866) 940-7660, or check out their website at www.revds.com. You may also contact the City of Willcox Finance Department at (520) 766-4202, or send questions to rgraham@willcoxcity.org.

How Rates Are Set for Water, Gas, Sewer, and Trash

Pat McCourt, City Manager

The City of Willcox operates four (4) operations which provide services to the users in the area. These are Water Services, Sewer Services, Gas Services, and Trash (garbage) Services.

The City operates each of these Services like it is a separate company (which is called a Enterprise Fund). Each of the services must generate enough money from the rates it charges to pay for the cost of the services it delivers. There is no profit; however there should be some reserves to take care of ups and downs in the economy.

In order to make sure the Fund has sufficient income to pay for the cost of providing the service, the City council reviews the proposed income, the proposed expenses, and the reserves. This assures that the budget is “balanced”; there is enough to pay for the service, yet the bill to the customer is kept at the lowest level possible.

The City Council will be reviewing each of the Enterprise Funds this spring as a normal part of the Budget process. These reviews should be occurring in March and April. If you can fit it in your schedule, please stop by and participate in the process. The Council meets the first and third Mondays of the month, at 7:00 PM, at 300 W. Rex Allen Drive.

Library To Get New Computers!

Tom Miner, Library Director

The Elsie S. Hogan Community Library will soon receive **five** new Dell laptop computers, through the AZ Public Access Computer (AZPAC) Grant, funded largely by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the AZ State Library, through the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant program.

From the Office of the City Clerk...

Cristina G. Whelan, CMC

City Council Meetings

Monday
Mar 7, 2011

&

Monday
Mar 21, 2011

7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers
300 W. Rex Allen Drive