

City of Willcox Newsletter

March 2011

Message from the Mayor

Gerald W. (Sam) Lindsey

As your mayor, I want to thank you for the trust you have placed in our Willcox City Council to make the fiscally responsible decisions that are helping to weather this historic recession and keep our state's economy moving in the right direction.

Because of severe declines in revenue, we have taken many difficult but necessary steps over the past few years to deal with this crisis. We have learned to be more efficient and to do more with less. So far, our goals and long-term vision for this community have not been sacrificed.

I believe that Willcox, like the other 90 Arizona cities and towns, is an engine for economic growth and job creation. That is why we have always worked so hard to recruit and retain employers, who in turn provide employment for our citizens and contribute to the economic health of our community and state. A strong economy makes it possible to provide essential services such as public safety, clean water, parks, libraries and public transportation systems.

Those vital services and amenities are all important to our overall quality of life, which in turn make us attractive to other businesses seeking to expand or locate. That's how the engine works.

In a recent statewide poll, Arizona citizens overwhelmingly affirmed their trust in local governments. The poll, commissioned by the League of Arizona Cities and Towns, confirmed that Arizonans believe what we as elected leaders already know: that the City of Willcox services are vital. And, more importantly, the poll showed strong statewide support for maintaining and protecting Arizona's longstanding policy of shared state revenues, which provide much of the funding for those important services.

Studies also show that more than 90 percent of the state tax revenue is generated from economic activity in cities and towns. So, for the state to recover economically, cities and towns need to be strong and attractive to businesses and families. We are all in the same economy and we will rise or fall together.

Once again, thank you for your trust. With your help and your voice, we will continue to make our community thrive now and into the future.

TPT Self-Collection in Willcox

Ruth Graham, Finance Director

The City of Willcox held four public outreach meetings about the change to self-collection of Transaction Privilege Taxes (TPT) beginning with taxes collected in March and reported/paid in April. Vendors will now need to file two TPT returns; State and County taxes continue to be paid to the Arizona Dept of Revenue, and Willcox taxes will be paid to RDS. Vendors doing business in Willcox and Bullhead City, Somerton or Sedona can file a single city return with RDS.

The tax rates, types of tax including commercial and residential rental taxes, tax computations, due dates and payment dates have not changed. Frequency of filing on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis depends on the gross sales amount of the taxpayer and will be outlined in an upcoming RDS mailing. Each quarter RDS will send three forms for taxpayer's use. There is also an on-line file and pay option. The first on-line return will require the input of information such as name and address, tax number and tax codes. Once the return has been saved, in subsequent months the system will automatically populate those fields and compute the tax amount due based on the current gross sales and deduction amounts entered for the period. Payment is required by ACH, debit or credit at the time of filing. An on-line return can be prepared and marked for the processing and payment at a later date at the taxpayer's option. Customer service available 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. MST weekdays and calls after hours will be returned the next business day, or call the Finance Dept at City Hall at 766-4207.

THANK YOU TO WILLCOX PUBLIC WORKS

Sherry Lynn Van Allen-Teeters, Human Resources Office

The severely cold weather that affected Willcox over the last few months resulted in numerous broken water lines throughout our community. Our Public Works department responded and assisted the City residents by turning off water and repairing any of the City-owned lines.

Some of the other cities and towns across Arizona actually suffered a gas outage during the cold spell that hit our State. Our Public Works department closely monitored the gas usage, and with the cooperation of the City residents reducing their thermostats, was able to provide gas and heat throughout the City at a time when other cities were forced to turn off services.

Our Public Works Department is charged with a lot of responsibility in maintaining our City Utilities, Streets, and Parks. The crews sometimes work short-handed and long hours to provide services to the City of Willcox. We would like to thank them for ensuring our City residents were able to keep warm during the cold front that swept through our town. – Great Job Guys!

From the Office of the City Clerk...

Cristina G. Whelan, CMC

City Council Meetings

Monday
Apr 4, 2011

&

Monday
Apr 18, 2011

7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers
300 W. Rex Allen Drive