

City of Willcox Newsletter October 2011

Steam Trains and Willcox

Pat McCourt, City Manager

Most of us know that City of Willcox started out as Maley's Camp, just a little spot on the long railroad line. Those first trains were Steam Locomotives; those days are long gone. The Steam Locomotive is widely recognized as the single most important tool that opened the western United States and united the east and west coasts of this country. Most of us have never seen a steam locomotive and most never will.

But you have a chance to see one of the last operating Steam Locomotives in the United States on Thursday, November 10, 2011.

As part of the celebration of the 100 years of Statehood, the Union Pacific Railroad is bringing a Steam Locomotive to Willcox! The Locomotive is scheduled to arrive in Willcox from Lordsburg at approximately 10 A.M.

The Locomotive will be parked on the tracks by Railroad Park for about 30 minutes before it continues on its journey across Arizona.

Come down and see a part of Willcox History, Arizona history, and America's history!

The Library Needs Your Help!

Tom Miner, Library Director

Last month, I gave you 101 great reasons to read. This month, I want to give you the **key** to making that happen. What sort of key? Simple, it is your **Library Card** – the most important card in your purse or wallet. It is your FREE ticket to ride! It is your passport to the World, and to explore and enjoy all of those 101 reasons to read!

Most people in our community have a library card – that is a fact. But sadly, another fact is – most people (7 or 8 out of 10) don't bother to bring their card in to the Library with them – and we *really* need for you to do that. And yes, we have heard 101 different reasons why they didn't. Like most things, it just becomes a habit, and like most bad habits, it is a hard one to break, but please, it will make life so much better, for you and for us.

One little thing like bringing your Library Card in with you makes a world of difference, and helps us serve you better. Here is why - I'll bet you did not know that we serve about 150 people a day on average, here at the Library. That is 900 per week, 3500 per month, and about 42,000 people a year! And we do that with just four people on staff and a small handful of volunteers. Now, each person that comes in without a library card, needing a computer, or wanting to check out some books or other media, takes anywhere from two to five minutes extra time (on avg) for us to serve them. Staff tells me that nearly 8 out of 10 people do not bring their card in with them. Let's do the math: $42,000 \times 80\% = 33,600 \times 4 \text{ minutes} = 134,400 \text{ extra service time minutes}$, divided by 60 = 2,280 hours! That is 200 hours *more* than having another full-time person on staff. We are already short one full-time person on staff. We don't *have* that 2,280 hours to spare. Now do you see how, by doing

one simple little thing like bringing your library card in with you, you can help us help you? It will reduce your waiting time *and* compensate for not having that staff person.

There are four big plusses to having your library card with you: (1) No waiting lines to check out materials – you can use the self-checkout machine; (2) No waiting lines to reserve a computer – you can scan your card and self-reserve your computer; (3) If you do need our help, with your card we go straight into your account, pay your bills, renew your books, etc, and we save you (and us) that 5 extra minutes! That is efficiency in action. There is one more very important reason to always bring your card in with you, and that is: (4) If our operating system is down or we have a power outage, the ONLY way we can check anything in or out to you, is by tying those items to your card number. Please bring your card in, and help us help you. Thank you!

So what does the City do anyway?

Pat McCourt, City Manager

Often we don't know what the City of Willcox does for the people of the Community. What services are actually being provided? What services are not being provided and why not? How is the City Budget (actually 12 independent budgets) made up and how does it work? Most people feel that the government is the government, and don't really know or care about the differences between the Federal, State, City, County and School District.

The City of Willcox is a local Government which has limited power. It provides a broad range of services to the people of the community.

On Thursday evening, November 17, from 5PM to 7PM, the City will be holding a "Business After Hours" at the Fireside room in the Community Center. This is a relaxed setting to allow the people of the community to come in and talk one-on-one with the various Department directors and talk about what services are being provided and how those services are paid for (and it usually is not taxes).

Please join us for an informal discussion of the services being provided by the City of Willcox for the People of Willcox.

From the Office of the City Clerk...

Pat McCourt, City Manager

City Council Meetings

Monday
Nov 7, 2011

&

Monday
Nov 21, 2011

7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers

300 W. Rex Allen Drive

Reminder: Except for Emergency Services, all City Offices will be CLOSED Friday, Nov 11, for Veteran's Day and Thursday thru Sunday, Nov 24 – 27, 2011 for the Thanksgiving Holidays.