

City of Willcox Newsletter November 2011

The Holiday Season Is Upon Us!

Pat McCourt, Willcox City Manager

This Newsletter should be published about the time we are enjoying the last of the leftovers from Thanksgiving. I hope you have all enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving; had an opportunity to reflect on the blessings of the last year; have forgotten the trials and tribulations; and look forward to the coming season with joy in your hearts.

This is a time of year when many reach out to help the less fortunate in our community. There are many opportunities to help the people here in Willcox.

Volunteers are always needed in all of the organizations listed below;

The Chamber of Commerce (384-2272) and the Library (766-4250).

The Salvation Army works in our local community to help those in need and there is a special need for “Bell Ringers” during the Holidays and cash anytime: 766-4231

The Food Pantry helps those out who need temporary assistance of food and clothing. At the Holidays there is an especially big need for Holiday food baskets items: 253-0357

Toys for Tots is a program run by the Willcox Police, all the toys are kept local, the collection boxes are located at:

Police Dept - 300 Rex Allen Drive

Public Works – Railroad and Delos

City Hall – 101 S. Railroad Ave.

Library - Maley & Curtis

Various Businesses throughout town

The local churches have many programs to help the needy.

This list is far from complete, it is only a start. Remember the season and reach out to help those in need.

THE WILLCOX FIRE DEPARTMENT WISHES TO OFFER EVERYONE A SAFE AND JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON AND OFFERS THESE HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY TIPS.

- First and foremost make sure you have a working smoke detector, ensure the battery is fresh and the detector is working. (If you don't have one the Willcox Fire Dept. still has some smoke detectors that we can provide for free after you fill out a small application form). Contact the Fire Dept. for info at 384-4673.

- Turkey Fryers are a major cause of residential fires and burn injuries during the Holiday Season. Here are some tips for safe use:
- Keep the fryer in FULL VIEW while the burner is on. Never leave it unattended.
- Place fryer in an open area AWAY from all walls, fences and other structures.
- Never use IN, ON, or UNDER a garage, breezeway, carport, or porch.
- Raise and lower food SLOWLY to reduce splatter and avoid burns.
- COVER bare skin when adding or removing food from the fryer.
- Check the oil temperature often.
- If oil begins to smoke, immediately turn gas supply OFF.
- Never place a wet, frozen, or partially frozen turkey into a fryer. Partially frozen, frozen and/or wet turkeys can produce excessive hot oil splatter and could cause a fire.
- Do not overfill the fryer with oil, doing so could cause the oil to overflow when adding food and cause a fire.
- If a fire does occur, IMMEDIATELY call 911. DO NOT attempt to put out the fire yourself!!

A dried out Christmas tree is another leading cause of Holiday fire and during this season results in fires that cause injuries to over 1,650 people and over \$990 million dollars in property damage each year!! Here are some tips for keeping your family and home safe when using a Christmas Tree:

Only use a FRESH tree. Needles should be green and hard to pull back from the branches and the needles should not break. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. A tree that is not fresh can be identified by bouncing the tree on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree is not fresh and should be avoided.

Do not place your tree near a heat source which can cause the tree to dry out prematurely creating an extreme fire hazard.

Don't put your tree up too early or leave it up longer than 2 weeks.

Before setting your tree in a stable, UL approved tree stand that can hold water to keep the tree fresh, cut off a small section of the bottom of the trunk, so that the tree can more easily "drink" water to stay fresh.

Dispose of your used tree at the recycling center or have it hauled away. Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or woodburning stove. These items burn way too hot and may cause a chimney fire.

Holiday Lights are a potential fire hazard which can be avoided with a little prior preparation, and by following these simple tips:

- Only use UL or similar testing laboratory approved lights.
- Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear of the wires before putting them up.
- Do not overload electrical outlets. Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Use only approved extension cords in good

condition. Plug the lights into the extension cord before plugging the cord into an outlet.

- Periodically check the wires – they should not be warm to the touch which would indicate a possible overload and fire hazard.

Some other Holiday Safety Tips:

- NEVER put wrapping paper in a Fireplace. Wrapping paper generally burns very hot and fast, throwing off embers which may result in a chimney fire.
- Avoid using lit candles. If you do use them make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Never leave a burning candle unattended. And lastly, NEVER put lit candles on or near a Christmas tree!!

By using these Holiday Safety Tips and some common sense safety practices, you will greatly reduce the chance of a fire during this Holiday Season.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!

From the Office of the City Clerk...

Cristina G. Whelan, CMC

City Council Meetings

Monday
Dec 5, 2011

&

Monday
Dec 19, 2011

7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers
300 W. Rex Allen Drive

‘Candidate for City Council’ packets are now available from this office, and are due by 5:00 PM, Dec 14, 2011. There are three seats available.

Reminder: Except for Emergency Services, All City Offices will be CLOSED Thursday Thru Sunday, Nov 24 – 27 for the Thanksgiving Holidays; and at NOON, Dec 23 Thru Monday, Dec 26 for the Christmas Holidays; and also at NOON, Dec 30 Thru Monday, Jan 2, 2012 for the New Year’s Holidays. The City of Willcox Wishes Everyone the Most Joyous Of Holiday Seasons!!