

City of Willcox Newsletter January 2012

2012 - A New Year and New Opportunities!

Pat McCourt, Willcox City Manager

2012 will bring new challenges and many old challenges. Many of the new challenges we do not even know about yet, they will come about during the year for any of a broad variety of reasons. I do not know what the Mayan calendar ending in 2012 means for the people of the City of Willcox. What I do know is that people still want Police and Fire protection; we still need to provide roads to drive on; people still want Parks to play in; people want a full service Library; people still want safe water and gas delivered to their homes and businesses; people still want the sewage to disappear when they flush their toilets and the trash to disappear; and people want these things at the lowest cost of taxes and fees possible.

I often hear that taxes and fees need to be cut – I agree. I have never met anyone that has said they want to have higher taxes, or for that matter, anyone that says they want to pay more for a gallon of gas or a loaf of bread; everyone wants to pay less for everything. The question is not whether we want to pay less, the question is: Are we willing to receive less?

The government is the government is the government. This is how most people lump together all governments. In the United States, we have a lot of overlapping governments: if you live in the City of Willcox, there are at least the following six overlapping governments: Federal Government, State of Arizona Government, Cochise County Government, Willcox Unified School District, Northern Cochise County Hospital District, and the City of Willcox. The good thing is, we have plenty of opportunity to participate in government; the bad thing is, it can get confusing; hence, the tendency of people to lump every government together.

The majority of my time is dealing with one government: the City of Willcox. I believe that most people want the City to exist to make their life better. Most people want a good, safe, community where they can live and raise their families. Most people want the City to reduce taxes and fees. The City doesn't have a money tree. The money to pay for the services has to come from taxes and fees. As fees and taxes are reduced; so must the services be reduced. The question then becomes: which services should be reduced? The answer is: the services that I do not use. However, *somebody* uses *some* of the services *all* of the time. The City serves *all* of the *somebodies*. Often the discussion about reducing taxes and fees tries to simply ignore the fact that income is connected with expenses, and tries to simply cut taxes and fees and ignore the impact of being able to deliver services; this is really just a way to avoid the responsibility for cutting services.

These are the big opportunities that the City Council always faces. Which services can be reduced without reducing the quality of life in Willcox? What reductions in services are we willing to accept, and how much will we actually reduce taxes and fees? How do we find ways to reduce the cost of providing service while maintaining the service levels?

DID YOU KNOW?

Tom Miner, Library Director

62% of adults in the U.S. have public library cards (Harris 2010 survey)

Americans go to school, public and academic libraries nearly three times more often than they go to the movies.

Reference librarians in the nation's public and academic libraries answer nearly 5.7 **million** questions **weekly**. Standing single file, the line of questioners would span from Long Island, New York, to Juneau, Alaska.

A 2009 poll conducted for the American Library Association found that 96% respondents agreed that public libraries play an important role in giving everyone a chance to succeed because it provides free access to materials and resources.

From the Office of the City Clerk...

Cristina G. Whelan, CMC

City Council Meetings

Monday
Feb 6, 2012

&

Monday
Feb 20, 2012

7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers
300 W. Rex Allen Drive

The following have submitted the paperwork for Candidate and whose names will appear on the Primary Ballot on Tuesday, March 13, 2012 as listed:

Earl B. Goolsby
Elwood "Woody" Johnson
William "Bill" Nigh

Nomination papers from Write-In Candidates is due by February 2, 2012 in the Office of the City Clerk Cristina G. Whelan, CMC, City Hall 101 S. Railroad Avenue, Suite B, Willcox, AZ. (Signed petition is not required and the name will not appear on the ballot.)

Los siguientes han sometido papeleo para Candidato y cuales nombres aparecerán en la Balota Primaria el Martes, día 13 de Marzo, 2012 según lo enumerado:

Earl B. Goolsby
Elwood "Woody" Johnson
William "Bill" Nigh

La fecha límite para papeles de nombramiento de Candidatos Por Escrito es el día 2 de Febrero, 2012 en la Oficina de la Secretaría Municipal, Cristina G. Whelan, CMC, City Hall, 101 S. Railroad Avenue, Suite B, Willcox, AZ. (Peticiones firmadas no se requieren y el nombre no aparecerá en la balota.)