

City of Willcox Newsletter September 2012

Fall Clean up

Pat McCourt, City Manager

It is that time of the year again when we do fall cleaning in the City of Willcox. The day is September 29th the official cleanup day for the City of Willcox. Plan on gathering your family and friends to help spruce up the town. There are many groups who have already selected areas to cleanup. We also have identified various “Hot Spots” which need particular attention. If you would like to participate as a group, please contact either Alan Baker at the Chamber of Commerce 384-2272 or Pat McCourt at the City, 384-4271.

If you live in the City of Willcox; are elderly or disabled; and have bulky items to remove, please contact City of Willcox Public Works at 766-4212.

Thank you for taking pride in our community.

NINE REASONS TO SAVE PUBLIC LIBRARIES!

Tom Miner, Library Director

In these tough economic times, you hear all over the country about Governors and legislators making tough decisions, like cutting funding for State Libraries, which trickles down to County Libraries, and then to local libraries such as ours. Arizona has been hit by budget shortages as well. There are over 200 Public Libraries in this State. Emily Bristol wrote an article on 8/8/12 in Education, Headlines, Issues. Here are excerpts of **nine** good reasons why our libraries are still the place where we as a nation will achieve our destiny:

1. **The House of the 99%:** The foundation of democracy is an educated electorate. When the economy is down, it is all the more vital that we the people have access to information, education and news... and now in modern times the Internet, computers, and other sources of media as well. Libraries do that – for everyone!
2. **Libraries Build Equity:** Research shows that depressed neighborhoods and declining communities are not just culturally enriched by libraries. The institutions serve as a community focal point, like a town square, and communities that have that resource rebound.
3. **Community Hope Chest:** Libraries don’t just curate the Harry Potter series and lend copies of the latest blockbusters on DVD. They also house special collections based on the needs and unique identities of the communities they serve.
4. **Renewable Resource:** How much do you save by being able to borrow materials from the library? How helpful is it to have this resource – especially now that even retail bookstores, movie rental shops, and record stores are closing? There is a calculator for that. [Go to www.ilovelibraries.org, type in “library value calculator”, and plug **your** own numbers in.]

5. **Literacy:** Studies show that children's literacy is greatly improved by access to summer reading programs and pre-school reading programs at public libraries. And children's literacy is a building block of adult literacy. Maybe you don't "own" the books at the library, but libraries are a place where the socio-economic realities that push the starting line so far back for so many can be equalized. And that's like a small miracle in the life of a child who has already had to learn how to be hard in the face of a world that cuts them no breaks. There are very few individuals who could buy every child a book and start them on the road to literacy. (And it's been shown that access to books in childhood is one of the biggest predictors of literacy.) But all of us together can buy a child a building full of books. **That** is a miracle.

6. **Leveling the Playing Field:** Libraries offer vital resources for communities that might not otherwise be served or feel integrated. People learning English (or other languages), the elderly, deaf people, the homeless... the list goes on.

7. **Safe Space:** In some communities, the public library may be the only free space available that is also a safe space. Young victims of bullying, kids who live with domestic violence, LGBT youth, and many more can find a safe place (and often a caring librarian) at the library.

8. **Cultural Touchstone:** Many libraries showcase art – often by local artists. Likewise, the building themselves are often architecturally significant and enhance the beauty and character of the communities they serve.

9. **Drop In or Drop Out:** Libraries can also be a place that means the difference between a child's success or failure in school. Many libraries offer tutoring programs, free classes, as well as access to volumes of information and technology that a kid might not have anywhere else. The fact is, there is all kinds of other stuff besides books that libraries do for people in our community every day. Book programs for shut-ins. After-school and summer programs for youth. Did I mention toddler story-time?

But more than that, it may just be the last free space that is truly free and there for everyone – homeless, young, old, rich, poor, and any race under the sun. We are all welcome there. We are all equal there.

Doesn't that seem like a space too valuable to lose?

"A Library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never failing spring in the desert." -- Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919) Industrialist and Philanthropist

From the Office of the City Clerk...

Virginia A. Mefford, City Clerk

City Council Meetings

Monday

Oct 1, 2012

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Monday

Oct 15, 2012

7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers

300 W. Rex Allen Drive