

City of Willcox Newsletter January 2013

2013 ~ A New Year and New Opportunities

Pat McCourt, Willcox City Manager

2013 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. What I do know is that people 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 overlapping governments: Federal Government, State of Arizona Government, Cochise County Government, Willcox Unified School District, Northern Cochise County Hospital District, and 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 spent 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 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 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 on 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?

These are the same questions being wrestled with at the Federal, State, County and school level. There are no easy answers: there are only continued efforts to do the best we can with what we have available.

2013 ~ New Hours at the Library?

Tom Miner, Library Director

(Yes)(No) If the Library were to close at **6 PM** on Thursdays, would that still suit **your** needs, and what time should we open? We do not wish to cut our total service hours (46). Or, should we leave the schedule as it is? Please circle one day/check one time.

Currently:	10-6	10-6	10-6	10-7	9-5	9-2
Weekday:	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Open/Close:	<input type="checkbox"/> One Hour later <input type="checkbox"/> Two Hours later <input type="checkbox"/> Keep the same schedule.					
	<input type="checkbox"/> One Hour earlier <input type="checkbox"/> Two Hours earlier					

Please cut this out and return it to any Library staff member. Thanks Very Much! |

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
VACANCIES

The Mayor & Council are soliciting letters of interest or resumes from interested persons who wish to volunteer to serve on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. This committee currently has two (2) vacancies. The duties of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee are to act in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and City Council in matters pertaining to Parks and Recreation. The Committee assists in planning a recreation program for the citizens of Willcox and to promote public interest therein. The committee works with the school authorities and other public and private agencies to promote recreational activities within our Community. The committee makes recommendations to the Mayor and City Council for park improvements and brings forth suggestions and requests received from the citizens of Willcox. The committee's scheduled meeting is held on the fourth Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the Committee Conference Room located at 300 W. Rex Allen Drive. If you are interested in becoming a Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee member and would like more information, call Sherry Lynn Van Allen at 384-4271 x 4204. Submit letters of interest and/or resumes to the Human Resources Office, 101 S. Railroad Ave., Suite B, Willcox, AZ 85643.

From the Office of the City Clerk...

Virginia A. Mefford, City Clerk

City Council Meetings

Regular Meeting

Monday

Feb 4, 2013

&

Monday

Feb 18, 2013

7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers

300 W. Rex Allen Drive