

## City of Willcox Newsletter February 2013

### **Get Involved In Community Recreation...**

Sherry Van Allen-Teeters, Human Resources

If you are interested in community recreation activities and have new ideas on how to improve our City Parks and Facilities, the Mayor and Council are currently soliciting letters of interest or resumes from persons who wish to serve on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. This committee 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 our community, makes recommendations to the Mayor and City Council for park improvements, and brings forth suggestions and requests received from the citizens of Willcox.

If you are interested 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.

### **What Do I Do With This??? - Recycle It**

Recycling has become a high priority across America in keeping our environment green. The City of Willcox promotes and encourages everyone to recycle. We have a location to take those unwanted Aluminum Cans, other paper, and plastics located at City of Willcox Recycling Drop-off Center at 250 N Railroad Ave.

The City has also placed a link on its website so you can find where to drop off those additional unwanted items. Please visit [www.cityofwillcox.org](http://www.cityofwillcox.org) and click on the link labeled "**Willcox Recycling Information**" and do your part to make Willcox cleaner and greener.

Our site will direct you to a website established by Earth 911 [www.search.earth.911.com](http://www.search.earth.911.com) by using this link you can search for locations within the City and County that accept those items your not sure what to do with. Since the link searches by zip code it is a link you can give to family and friends and promote recycling across America.

### **Quote of the Day**

Tom Miner, Library Director

"If we didn't already have libraries, they would now have to be invented. They are the keys to American success in fully exploiting the information superhighways of the future."

**James Billington**  
Librarian of Congress

## **Gas, Water, Sewer, and Solid Waste Rates**

Pat McCourt, Willcox City Manager

I hope the headline got your attention – that is what headlines are intended to do. I want to get your attention on this topic and let you know what is going on concerning the rates we all pay for Gas, Water, Sewer, and Solid Waste (garbage).

The City of Willcox operates these utilities within the City. Each of these four (4) Funds is kept separate and operates like an independent business (actually, like a Cooperative similar to SSVEC). The money to operate each of these Utilities is received from the users of the service. The City Council is the “Board of Directors” of each of these businesses and has to take steps to make sure each of these businesses is operating in a proper manner. What that means is the Council has to look at the operations each year and decide how much money will be required to operate the Business and how that amount will be generated from the users of the service.

One question that is frequently asked is: how much of the money is used to pay Police Officers? The answer is none. The City does maintain only one finance office, one administrative office, one legal, and one operational office for ALL Funds of the City, including the four utility Funds. This is much more cost efficient than establishing separate offices for each Utility. The four utilities are required to pay their share of these offices. Their Share does not include Parks, Police, Fire, Library, Streets, or other City Operational Funds.

The City Council is required by City Code to review each of the Utility Funds by April of each year and set a rate for the next Fiscal Year (July 1 through June 30<sup>th</sup>). The review includes: how much money is on hand and available for use to pay bills and handle any emergencies which might occur; what are the estimated operating costs for the next year (personnel, electric, supplies, vehicle maintenance, etc.); what are the necessary capital costs (replacement or extension of the lines buried in the ground, construction of a updated Waste Water Treatment Plant, new wells, or new gas pressure stations); what sources of money are available (are there any grants or low cost loans to pay for the capital costs); when will the money have to be available; how much will be necessary to have the users pay; and how to distribute the cost fairly among the users.

The City Council has established a system to automatically adjust the rates to keep even with inflation. The goal is to keep the necessary rate change below inflation.

The City Council also knows that it is necessary to plan for major capital costs and avoid “rate shock” of a large disruptive rate increase.

This is a “snap shot” of what the City Council has to struggle with on these portions of the entire City Budget. The Rate hearings will be taking place in March. You are invited to attend and provide your input.

**From the Office of the City Clerk...**

Virginia A. Mefford, City Clerk

**City Council Meetings**

Regular Meeting

Monday

Mar 4, 2013

&

Monday

Mar 18, 2013

7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers  
300 W. Rex Allen Drive