

## City of Willcox Newsletter April 2013

### **Water, Sewer, Gas, and Trash Rates: What is Happening?**

Pat McCourt, Willcox City Manager

The City Council has held a series of workshops on the Water, Sewer, Gas, and Solid Waste (Trash) rates. These are services that the City of Willcox provides as “Enterprise Funds”. What that means is they are run very similar to a private business, the users of the service pay for the service; there are not any tax dollars that are spent for these services.

The question is: “What is going to happen to the amount I have to pay each month?” The Council reviewed each of the services separately to make certain that they are carrying their own weight. The Council also considered the impact of any rate change of the four services on individual customers, since the customer receives one bill - not four separate bills.

After reviewing both the short term needs (one year) and the long term (ten year) needs of the Enterprise funds. The Council has decided to keep the Water and Gas rates at the **same** level. The Trash rates are scheduled to increase by 1.7%; this should allow the Solid Waste fund to pay all its bills and remain solvent. The Sewer Rates were increased by 5%. This is to help pay for the new Sewer plant and protect the health of the citizens, protect the water supplies, and protect our local environment.

So what does this mean to the average residential customer? The amount of Gas and Water used in any month varies quite a bit, so this has an impact on a monthly basis; however, those rates are staying the same. The Sewer and Trash rates are changing; for the average customer the impact should be less than two dollars (\$2.00) per month; this is less than the rate of inflation. The Council would have liked to keep the rates lower; but could not responsibly do that and pay the necessary expenses of operation. These rate changes will go into effect on **July 1, 2013**.

Just as a side note: the sewer bills are adjusted based upon use; that is measured for the months of December, January, and February each year, during the month of April. This adjustment is NOT a change in rates, but a change in the amount of sewage service being used by the individual customer.

### **Spring Clean Up Day!**

Pat McCourt, City Manager

It is that time of the year again when we do spring cleaning in the City of Willcox. The official cleanup day for the City will be Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.

Plan on gathering your family and friends to help spruce up the town. There are many groups who have already selected areas to clean up. 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.

This is Alan's second rousing speech (his first was in the fall of 2012). Join us in welcoming him to his first Spring clean-up.

Additionally, for those who can't participate on April 27<sup>th</sup>, the Transfer Station in Willcox will be having a "Free Dump Day" on Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, from 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM. You can clean up all of those items you have been storing or were too bulky to fit in the trash containers.

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

Thank you for taking pride in our community!

### **Your Library is AWESome!**

Tom Miner, Library Director

Sounds like I am blowing my own horn, right? Not in this case. 'AWE' stands for Advanced Workstation in Education. AWE workstations are found in over 3,700 locations across America. We have one of the latest tools in getting our kids started off on the right foot here at the Library: the AWE Early Literacy Station (ELS)! These workstations can be found in 35% of all public library systems in the USA, and one of the biggest advantages is that they deliver an almost inexhaustible amount of activities without needing an Internet connection. Our first AWE System was stolen during the recent burglary at the Library, but has now been replaced with an even newer version! It is specifically designed for children **ages 2-8**, and offers **50** educational programs in English and **35** in Spanish. The various programs were designed by teachers and vetted by the national education folks in Washington, D.C., and include comprehensive programs that cover all curricular areas, from math and reading, to science and art. Kids oftentimes don't even realize they are learning ~ they just know it is a lot of fun! This computer is **not** connected to the Internet, so it is perfectly safe for children. Children are naturally drawn to computers and, as they experiment within this secure technology environment, they get the benefits of personalized, self-directed learning. When you sign on, you tell the system how old you are and what language you prefer, and it gears all of the programming specifically to your individual needs. AWESome!

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

Virginia A. Mefford, City Clerk

**City Council Meetings**

Monday  
May 6, 2013

&

Monday  
May 20, 2013

7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers  
300 W. Rex Allen Drive

**Reminder: Except for Emergency Services, All City Offices will be CLOSED on  
Monday, May 27, 2013 for the Memorial Day Holiday.**