

## **City of Willcox Newsletter**

### **June 2013**

#### **Come Join Our Summer Reading Program!**

Tom Miner, Library Director

The annual Summer Reading Program for all ages is happening right now at the Elsie S. Hogan Community library.

“Dig Into Reading!” is the reading program theme this summer.

The 2013 Summer Reading Program is open to all ages beginning June 3, with programs, prize drawings, story hours, a teen program, and more. The reading program emphasizes fun reading for all ages. Children will explore the world of Dirt and All Things Underground through stories, songs, games and other activities.

However, just because school is out, it does not mean that reading and learning should stop. Teachers know that many children cannot afford to take such a long break. Young readers who do not continue to read over the summer — especially those who are reluctant or at-risk — are likely to lose crucial ground. One summer off can sometimes, mean a whole school year of struggling academic performance. Children need to read outside of school. Research clearly shows that the key to stemming summer reading loss is finding novel ways to get books into the hands of children during the summer break. The more children read, the better their fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension; it is less clear how to motivate children to read. Put simply, children whose reading skills are not strong — who have a history of less-than-successful reading experiences — simply are not as interested in voluntary reading as are those children with a history of successful reading experiences.

Lower-achieving readers are typically asked to read books that are too difficult. Without books that can be read easily with good comprehension, these less-skilled readers will not improve. All of their cognitive energy is devoted to trying to figure out unknown words — which produces a dysfluent, word-by-word reading with little understanding of, or engagement with, the books in their hands.

These disjointed reading experiences fail to help children consolidate skills, and perhaps most significant, such experiences make children feel unsuccessful. They offer little incentive to persevere and, ultimately, participate in the world of readers. Children do not just need books; they need the right books. Providing children with books that fit — books that match their skill levels and their interests — is an important first step in encouraging voluntary reading. We here

at the Elsie S. Hogan Community Library are committed to making the summer fun and educational at the same time.

### **Summer Activities**

Sherry Van Allen, Human Resources

It is already that time of year. School is out for summer break and the kids are already saying “I’m Bored”. Here are a couple of things for them to take advantage of during the next couple of months:

#### **Swimming Pool -**

The City Pool officially opened on Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$2.00 for everyone over seven years old. Six years and under is free. The Schedule for Day, Night, and Lap swims is below:

*Day Swims - Tuesday-Sunday 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm,*

*Night Swims - Saturday Only 7:00pm - 10:00 pm,*

*Lap Swims – Tuesday - Friday 6:00am - 9:00 am*

*Pool Closed on Mondays.*

*Swimming Lessons are \$25.00 per child and will be held June 10<sup>th</sup> thru 21<sup>st</sup> and July 8<sup>th</sup> thru 19<sup>th</sup>. Classes have limited space so please contact the Pool at 520-384-2101 to Register or for additional pool information.*

*Don't forget that Sunday's are Dollar Day swim from 1:00pm until 6:00pm.*

#### **Library –**

The Library kicked off their annual Summer Reading Program beginning on Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. The program lasts for eight weeks and all ages are welcome to participate. For more information on the summer events being held at our Library, please call 520-384-4252, or 4250.

### **Thank You and Peace Be Unto You!**

Pat McCourt, Willcox City Manager

You have given me the opportunity to serve you as the City Manager for the last four and one half years. The job has been filled with challenges (real headaches) and opportunities (real successes). I have grown to have a deep appreciation for the community of Willcox; it is filled with people from different walks of life, and with a broad variety of viewpoints. This has given me an opportunity to grow as a person and as a manager.

The people, Councils, and staff have worked hard to find the consensus that the people of Willcox want: to maintain the culture of Willcox, while allowing economic growth, and refinement of the standard of Living.

I will always carry Willcox and its people in my memories.

Please welcome the new City Manager, Ted Soltis, and encourage him.

Peace be with you now and forever.

**PLEASE BRING YOUR CARD TO THE LIBRARY!**

Tom Miner, Library Director

I know you all are probably getting tired of hearing my staff and I harp on this subject, but I am going to keep on doing that until folks wake up and smell the coffee. The simple fact is, we have been short-staffed for 3.25 yrs now. By your simple show of support, i.e, everyone bringing their card with them to the Library – the most important card in your purse or wallet – our time management study shows we will make up all of the hours that that vacant staff person occupied. That would help us tremendously – and help YOU - just that much faster, easier, and more efficiently. Will you all please bring your card with you to the Library? Thank you very much.

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

Virginia A. Mefford

**City Council Meetings**

Monday  
July 1, 2013

&

Monday  
July 15, 2013

7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers

300 West Rex Allen Drive

**Reminder: Except for Emergency Services, All City Offices will be CLOSED Thursday, July 4th, for the Independence Day Holiday**