

City of Willcox Newsletter September 2013

WHERE DO 9-1-1 CALLS GO?

Glenn Childers, Interim Chief, Willcox Department of Public Safety

Recently, we have had several questions from concerned citizens who have asked if they make a 9-1-1 call from their cell phone, *where does it go?* The answer is quite simple. It's anybody's guess. Cell phones are obviously different from traditional "land lines" in the sense that the signal from a cell phone travels through the air and has to "bounce" from a tower to a call center where it can be received, whereas a traditional phone uses dedicated lines established for receiving emergency or non-emergency calls, and are routed to the appropriate agency for that geographical area. When using a cell phone, there is no guarantee that if you dial 9-1-1, that your call will be received by the 9-1-1 center of the local police/fire dispatch center for the community you are in. Unfortunately, many times the call will go to a dispatch center belonging to another agency, sometimes even in another state. If you are using a cell phone exclusively, then it is best to program the local number of the police/fire dispatch center directly into your phone and place it on speed dial, that way you will at least be able to contact the agency for the area you are in, saving valuable time in an emergency that otherwise might be wasted while another agency attempts to contact the appropriate agency to respond to the emergency. If traveling on highways, program the numbers of the highway patrol dept. for that state ahead of time. Another problem is the dropped call. Cell phones can lose their signal and drop a call, which again delays the response, and can have tragic results. While cell phones are an asset, they do have limitations, and anyone who uses them should be aware of those limitations and take the necessary steps to reduce the likelihood of these limitations occurring, by checking with their service provider, and reading the owner's manual for the phone they have purchased. Let's all be safe out there!

LIBRARY TO GET NEW COMPUTERS FROM FRIENDS GROUP!

Tom Miner, Library Director

At their regular meeting Aug 10th, the Friends of the (Elsie S. Hogan Community) Library (FOL) approved the purchase of 12 new desktop computers with accompanying software and peripheral equipment for the Library, after hearing an appeal from City Manager Ted Soltis. Mr. Soltis laid out the facts concerning the antiquated Library computer equipment he had initially observed upon his arrival in Willcox, some of which are over 10 years old, while many others are 7 – 8 yrs old. The Library had several of its newest laptop computers stolen one year ago this month, and are still waiting for replacements to be connected. Mr. Soltis' philosophy is that the Library should have the latest, cutting-edge technology and equipment to offer it's patrons, so that they will not be disadvantaged when entering the workforce, or moving to new and better jobs. We, and the FOL, could not agree more!

GET INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY RECREATION...

Sherry Lynn Van Allen, Human Resources Office

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. Thank you!

CITY CLEAN-UP DAY SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28!

Ted Soltis, City Manager & Alan Baker, Director, Willcox Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture

As you are all probably aware through flyers and other media, we are sponsoring a city-wide clean-up day this Saturday, September 28. This is our last chance to make the city of Willcox “shine” before the Rex Allen Days weekend, and to show our visitors the **pride** we have in our hometown. We encourage as many people as possible to participate so we can accomplish this goal more easily.

As a convenience for our residents and participants, we will have a large dumpster on station at the corner of Stewart St. and Railroad Ave., before, during and immediately after the event. Please deposit all of your trash cleanup collections there. If you have large bulky items to dispose of and need assistance, please contact the Public Works Department **any time this week, at 384-6447**. Let's put our best foot forward and make this Rex Allen Days celebration the best ever! Thank You!

From the Office of the City Clerk...

Virginia A. Mefford, City Clerk

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City Council Meetings

Monday

Oct 7, 2013

&

Monday

Oct 21, 2013

7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers

300 W. Rex Allen Drive

Reminder: Except for Emergency Services, All City Offices will be CLOSED Monday, October 14th, for the Columbus Day Holiday