

## City of Willcox Newsletter February 2014

### **Basic Fire Prevention Measures**

Jeff Stoddard, Safety Officer & Firefighter

The weather has been beautiful, one problem - no rain. It is early in the season for wild land fires, but with the rain situation in our area and all of Arizona, it could be a bad year for fires. So let's start now and protect your property and your neighbors.

Please don't throw your cigarettes on the ground or out the car/truck window.

Always extinguish, never leave unattended, and create a safe zone around your fire pits, campfires and barbeques.

Do not throw your hot coals in the trash.

Always keep ignition sources and fuels separated. For example, never use an open flame or create sparks in proximity to fuel storage tanks.

Never use frayed or cracked electrical cords. Do not place electrical cords under carpets. Be aware of seasonal vegetation changes and follow recommended practices appropriate for the fire season and type of fire danger present (i.e., Low, Moderate, or High). For example:

1. Prevent range fires started by catalytic converters by keeping vehicles off dry vegetated range lands during the officially designated fire season.
2. Do not use potential ignition sources, such as chain saws, welding/grinding equipment, or mowing machines, in dry vegetated areas during the officially designated fire season or during times of High Fire Danger.
3. Do not smoke in dry vegetated areas during the officially designated fire season or during times of High Fire Danger.

Always operate machinery and equipment within the manufacturer's design limits. Assure spark arresters are in place and functioning properly. Prevent overheating by not overloading machinery or equipment capacities.

Keep flammable liquids in a secured area posted with warning signs that identify the flammable hazard. Store flammable liquids in unbreakable containers with securely fastened caps. Always mark containers with the words "Danger - Flammable Liquid."

Never overload a circuit by plugging too many appliances or equipment into one receptacle.

Prior to exiting a work area, turn off or disconnect non-essential lights, appliances, machinery, and equipment.

## **Debris Burning**

Planning on doing a little burning today? Before you burn, get your burn permit, contact the Willcox Fire Department at 320 N. Rex Allen Drive, 520-766-4231 for assistance. They are experts in fire safety. The City of Willcox and Cochise County require a burning permit. On high fire danger days there may be fire restrictions or prohibitions. In the southern region, most of all wildfires are human caused, of which most start from escaped yard debris burns, and from being careless. Whether you are burning construction debris, yard debris or household trash, you have a responsibility to burn safely. Check the fire danger in your community before you burn. You might be liable for suppression costs if you lose control of your burn. Burning on a day with moderate to severe fire danger threatens not only your home, but the homes of your neighbors, as well as the adjoining properties. Protect your property and that of your neighbor, burn safely.

Many communities are impacted by air pollution from large cities. The cities struggle to meet air quality attainment standards. Burning contributes to air pollution. There are individuals in these communities who have breathing disabilities. They are sensitive to smoke. If you must burn, burn on days that meet air quality attainment standards. Dispose of yard debris and household trash by recycling, composting or disposing in approved landfills. Use your community trash collection and recycling centers. Trash dumps are not only unhealthy, but are also wildfire hazards. Burning household trash can release noxious fumes to the air you breathe.

Remember: Safety starts with YOU!!!!!!!

## **LIBRARY HAS NEW MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS**

Tom Miner, Library Director

We are “getting the word out” concerning our recently updated, Council-approved Library Mission and Vision Statements. Our new Mission and Vision Statements are as follows:

***“The Elsie S. Hogan Community Library connects people, information, and ideas to promote lifelong learning, literacy development, and community involvement to assure the best quality of life.”***

***“The Elsie S. Hogan Community Library aspires to be the center of information and discovery in the community. Through innovative programming, relevant collections and responsive services, its goals are to support lifelong learning and the joy of reading, and to enrich, entertain and educate residents of all ages and cultures.”***

A mission statement is a broad statement of the purpose of the organization (i.e., the Library). It specifies the fundamental reason for the library’s existence. It establishes the scope of the library’s activities. It provides overall direction for the library, and it acts as a foundation for the development of general and specific objectives, as well as program plans.

A vision statement is an aspirational description of what an organization (i.e., the Library) would like to achieve or accomplish in the mid-term or long-term future. It is intended to serve as a clear guide for choosing future courses of action.

You may ask “Why was that necessary?” Well, the truth is, our last mission statement was more than 20 years old; the vision statement was added a few years later, to focus our efforts. We are certainly **not** the same library we were back in the early 1990’s. Back then, we did not have public access computers, or the Internet (aka: instant *Information*), or access to a myriad of databases. Automation (aka: *Technology*) in Oct 1997 brought about the demise of the old manual card catalog, which limited you to just the items that were inside our four walls (13,000+ items in 1997), but automation immediately gave you access to all of the collections in all of the 13 libraries in our District (400,000+ items), plus, it put the whole world at your fingertips in terms of access to information. No comparison. The old mission and vision statements did not address either of these two important resources and services that we provide, so they both had to be updated.

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

Virginia A. Mefford, City Clerk

**City Council Meetings**

Regular Meeting

***Note New Day: Thursday***

***Note New Date: Mar 6, 2014***

&

**Thursday**

**Mar 20, 2014**

***Note New Time: 6:30 p.m.***

City Council Chambers

300 W. Rex Allen Drive