

City of Willcox Newsletter December 2011

Year End 2011

Pat McCourt, City Manager

As I sit here and contemplate the past year, several thoughts immediately spring to the front: Where did the year go? It was just New Year's 2011, and now it is New Year's 2012.

I am now finishing three years of service to the people of Willcox. I think back to the interviews in the City Hall in November of 2008 and it seems like just yesterday.

I notice more aches & pains when I get up in the morning. Thank God for Ibuprofen.

The new Solarium is rapidly taking its place as part of the Library. There is finally enough money in contributions from the community and matching money from the City coffers to actually build some of the Skate Park.

Despite glacially slow improvement, the economy is showing some signs that people are getting back to work.

I now am up to fourteen grandchildren and one more on the way – while I know how that happened; I don't quite understand how it got to be so many.

I thought that the General Fund of the City would break even by June 30th 2011; looks like we will make it by June 30, 2012. While we have had to reduce services and increased the load on the existing city employees, they have shouldered the burden and the effect on the average citizen has been minimal.

We found a grant to help weatherize the Fire Station; this will reduce the energy costs from now until the building is no longer in use, a savings for the current citizens and the future citizens. We found ways to replace existing equipment and reduce the cost of current and future operations in the process.

We were able to keep our employees employed and off the unemployment rolls, without new taxes.

The New Year will bring new opportunities and challenges. I know that Willcox will rise to embrace them and prosper.

I thank you for the opportunity you have given me to be part of the life in Willcox for the last three years and I look forward to the next year.

Your Used Christmas Tree

Pat McCourt, Willcox City Manager

When you are finished with your Christmas tree (assuming you did not buy a live tree for replanting or have a reusable tree) you may disposal of the tree by taking it to the City's "Green Site". The Green Site is located near the Golf Course; take Rex Allen Jr. Drive toward the Golf course; just before the Driving Range, turn right on the dirt road; about a ¼ mile on the left is a large area for green waste (not for garbage, old sofas, concrete, or lumber). If you leave your tree there the City will mulch it up. The mulch is free to anyone who would like to pick it up and use it. If you have a hard time getting to the Green Site, **for Christmas only**, you can drop off your used Christmas tree across the street from the Public Works yard on the railroad frontage at Delos and Railroad Ave. Please have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season.

The Mascot & Western Rail Car

Pat McCourt, Willcox City Manager

As most people have noticed, the Mascot and Western Railroad Car located on Railroad Avenue across from City Hall, has been undergoing renovation. What is not so well known is that the renovation is being performed by volunteers.

To date: the old rotted outside wood has been removed; the necessary copper sheeting has been removed; and the old rotted windows have been removed. New wood to match the historical style has been installed and primed, and the windows have been reconstructed. So far, the bulk of the work has been done by John Cropper, Linda Drew, and Dave Bonner; also participating were: Monika Cronberg, Connie Bonner, Pat Sheehe, Loretta Seidel, Aurora Seidel, Jeff Stoddard, and Pat McCourt.

If you would like to help, the next work day is Saturday, December 31, 2011, starting at 8 AM. We will be placing the new windows back in the frames and painting them with primer. You are welcome to join us in this community project; no particular skills are necessary (although construction skills are appreciated).

Future plans call for the repainting of the entire Rail Car, building a platform in front to allow access to look in the windows, and building a roof over the entire rail car to protect it from the weather.

Donations of money and materials are also being accepted and welcomed. We thank Mr. & Mrs. Howard Bethel for the primer and material. Union Pacific Railroad Foundation has also provided a Grant to assist in paying for the renovation. If you would like to make a tax deductible gift for the renovation, you may do so at City Hall, 101 S. Railroad Ave., Suite B, Willcox, AZ 85643; and please clearly specify that the donation is for the renovation of the Mascot and Western Rail Car.

From the Office of the City Clerk...

Cristina G. Whelan, CMC

City Council Meetings

Note Date: Tuesday

Jan 3, 2012

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Note Date: Tuesday

Jan 17, 2012

7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers
300 W. Rex Allen Drive

Reminder: Except for Emergency Services, All City Offices will be CLOSED at NOON, Friday, Dec 23 Thru Monday, Dec 26 for the Christmas Holidays; and also at NOON, Friday, Dec 30 Thru Monday, Jan 2, 2012 for the New Year's Holidays. The City of Willcox Wishes Everyone the Most Joyous Of Holiday Seasons!!