

City of Willcox Newsletter August 2012

STAY COOL AND GET CONNECTED @ YOUR LIBRARY®

Sylvia Stewart, Library Supervisor

If you haven't been to a library for a while, something you're about to discover is that libraries are completely different from even ten years ago.

Libraries have become a place of gathering, momentum and fun – a place where you can nurture not just your love of reading but perhaps also where you'll meet new people, find out how to start your new business, or immerse yourself in technology you were only dreaming about. **Treat your local library as the place that expands your horizons and keeps you well informed.**

Sure, we still loan out books, albeit with a few twists. It's easier now to get a copy of what you're looking for through inter-library borrowing from libraries elsewhere, including access to books in electronic form. You may not even have to visit the library (beyond an initial visit to join) but can sit back at home and search for ebooks, key in your library number and password and enjoy the materials on your laptop, iPad or eReader.

Your library is now a multimedia zone, brim full of information in as many formats as formats have been created. It's not all about books, you can borrow movies on DVDs, music on CDs, we even loan out toys and games for in-house library use.

Get connected to the internet... on our 19 Public Access computers (you will need to use your library card; if you are a guest - ask a librarian for details); or use our free Wi-Fi.

Stay cool, keep warm and get connected - CHECKOUT your library!

CODE ENFORCEMENT: MOWING SEASON REMINDER

Jeff Stoddard, Code Enforcement Officer

Wet weather, off and on through the summer, coupled with hot temperatures, has left Willcox about as colorful as it is going to get in 2012. Flowers are in bloom all over the City, lawns and bushes have greened up, and the trees have leafed out nicely. It is worthwhile to take a tour of our City to take in the sights and smells of early summer. But, this profusion of natural growth means a lot of work for homeowners. There is planting, watering, weeding, clipping and mowing to be done to keep the yard looking spiffy... which bring us to the issue of mowing.

Overgrown grass is one of the most common complaints the City receives. What is the City policy for complaints and violations on overgrown grass? Our Willcox City Ordinance has a

maximum height limit for grass. Grass and weeds cannot be over 6 inches in height or it is violation of the City Ordinance. We recognize that overgrown grass is a time-sensitive violation which means, the longer the complaint is allowed to be in violation, the worse the property appearance becomes and the more public safety is compromised.

To address this issue, Code Enforcement is required to take the following steps: Once we receive the citizen's complaint or a City Code Official sees the overgrown grass violation first hand, we immediately contact the renter or property owner to let them know that the overgrown violation is present on the property and needs to be corrected in 14 days. On the 15th day, the Code Official will inspect to see if the property is in compliance. If the property is in compliance at inspection, the case is closed: if the overgrown grass violation is still present, the City will start the citation process.

To avoid being cited, mow your yard below the 6-inch maximum height allowance. Mow your yard on a regular basis. Allow grass to get tall enough to tickle the belly of a horse, and the neighbors are going to start complaining. And, the code enforcement folks are going to send the homeowner a letter more or less saying "Mow the lawn — or else!" The City sends out six to eight dozen such letters each year, depending up on how wet the weather has been. If no action is taken within a reasonable time, the City will begin the legal process, costing you a monetary fine.

A recent drive around town revealed tall grass waving in the breeze across numerous Business lots and the yards in front of private, rental and foreclosed homes. Also, some empty lots owned by private individuals, developers awaiting the local economy to turn around, and some Union Pacific Railway property, could really use a good trimming. High weeds and grass are not only **UNSIGHTLY**, but a **FIRE HAZARD**. City property owners with high grass and weeds are urged to crank up the mower, hire the kid down the block, or contact a yard service. You can contact Sandi Thomas at 520-766-4224 for a list of yard service companies. For the property owner, it becomes a mow-it-now-or-pay-the-city-later proposition. Most people, we hope, care enough about their neighborhood and are smart enough to want to avoid a surprise when a Code Enforcement letter arrives in the mail.

We hope this information will help you avoid complaints and violations being placed on your property. Be safe this Summer and Fall, and we hope that you have a fun and wonderful time this year in the outdoors. Thank you.

From the Office of the City Clerk...

Virginia A. Mefford, City Clerk

City Council Meetings

PLEASE NOTE DAY: TUESDAY
PLEASE NOTE DATE: Sept 4, 2012
(due to the Labor Day Holiday)

&

Monday
Sept 17, 2012

7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers

300 W. Rex Allen Drive