

Your City News...

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Your City News... is a quarterly newsletter published by the City of Willcox

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Beautification—Budget Update

By Gilbert Davidson, City Manager

To the Honorable Mayor, City Council, and Members of the Willcox Community:

This fall the City of Willcox will officially launch the “Pick it Up, Willcox – Neighbor by Neighbor” Campaign. A great deal of excitement surrounds this new campaign aimed at improving Willcox and our quality of life. Over the next few years, our community will undertake a major effort to clean up our public spaces, fix our streets, and plant trees and shrubs for the future. Now is the time to make a difference for the future of Willcox.

Every community faces challenges, but not every community responds appropriately to those challenges. Some communities are slow to respond to the changing external conditions, while others embrace it enthusiastically. The “Pick it Up” campaign is designed to address a number of community issues from the general look and feel of the area to the quality and availability of housing. We want to be a community that responds to the changing conditions by proactively finding ways to improve our city services and meet the needs of our citizens. In the end, this campaign will increase community pride and ultimately promote much needed economic development.

The first component of the campaign entails educating citizens about the need to maintain both residential and commercial properties. Some individuals may not be able to perform the necessary improvements and so we have organized a volunteer piece that will aid and assist when help is requested. The second component of the campaign will be to green-up Willcox through landscaping enhancements (planting trees and shrubs) along roadways

and public parks. Individuals and businesses will have the opportunity to donate funds to purchase the plant material and the necessary drip irrigation systems. The future of Willcox depends on this campaign being successful.

On another note, budget shortfalls continue to plague the state and so our city budget will once again be impacted by decreased state shared revenue. Serious discussions must take place in the forthcoming months on how to deal with a reduced city budget. The City, under the careful guidance and direction of the City Council, may have to reduce certain programs to maintain key essential services. It is more important that we perform our essential services at the highest of levels than try to manage multiple functions that are not done with 100% effort. The City of Willcox will pull through this financial challenge and emerge as a stronger, better community.

A special thanks is in order for our city employees who represent our city extremely well. They are beginning to identify a new vision for our organization, a vision that will transform how we operate and provide services. Our city staff, including Public Works, Public Safety, the Library, Magistrate Court, and City Hall is working hard for the citizens of Willcox. Their vigilance to improve this community should not go unrecognized. If any resident has a question or an idea, please contact City Hall at (520) 384-4271 or view our website at www.willcoxcity.org.

Public Works Update

by Frank R. Gonzales, Director

The Department of Public Services and Works, in support of the "Pick It Up" campaign, has undertaken the task of further landscaping all municipal parks and grounds. The Utilities Division recently completed the second phase of the B-10 Beautification Project by boring several access drives on the eastern portion of B-10. The bores will enable community volunteer groups to install irrigation drip lines for future planting of trees.

Personnel of the Public Facilities Division have installed guard railing and additional landscaping at Quail Drive Sports Park, and plans are underway to further develop this park, as well as the remaining municipal parks and buildings within the corporate limits of the city.

Departmental personnel will join forces with the local Chamber of Commerce to enhance the general aesthetics of the business district along Railroad Avenue and Maley Street.

The addition of a part time Building Inspector will complement efforts by the code enforcement program currently in place.

"Pick It Up, Willcox" and Read All About It!

By Nancy Guerrero, Library Director

What do you do after you pick it up and clean it up? Your environment, we mean. As our clean-up, green-up beautification campaign gets underway we expect that some of you have begun plans to either landscape or add some other visual appeal to your property. We at the library would like to help you with some of your landscaping, gardening & beautification reading materials. The following small list of books ranges from building to landscaping in a water-conscious way. If any of the books appeal to you, please visit us at 207 W. Maley or visit our web site at <http://cochise.lib.az.us>. If you have a PIN number you may place a hold on these titles directly from your PC. We would be happy to consider adding other titles that you would like to recommend, please give us a call at 502-384-4271 ext. 500 or e-mail at nguerre@willcoxpl.lib.az.us

- Allergy-free Gardening* by Thomas L. Ogren
Garden Walls, Fences and Hedges by Kathy Sheldon
Landscaping With Wood by Scott McBride
Organic Gardeners Handbook of Natural Insect and Disease Control by Rodale Press
Pruning and Training by Chris Brickell
Stone in the Garden; Inspiring Designs and Practical Projects by Gordon Hayward
Natural By Design; Beauty and Balance in Southwest Gardens by Judith Phillips
Native Plants for Southwestern Landscapes by Judy Mielke
Taylor's Guide to Water-saving Gardening
A Small Garden Designer's Handbook by Roy C. Strong
Landscaping with Native Arizona Plants by Soil Conservation Society of America
Lawns and Landscaping; 1,001 Gardening Questions Answered
Sunset Ideas for Landscaping
Rodale's Illustrated Encyclopedia of Gardening and Landscaping Techniques
Complete Pond Builder by Helen Nash

In addition to books we have recently added a brochure rack in the lobby that includes information on wise water use. These are free and you are encouraged to take what you need.

Child I.D. Program

Sponsored by the W.D.P.S.

Child abduction and related crimes involving children are sweeping the nation and heightening fear in our communities. In an effort to provide a security measure to the citizens of Willcox, the Department of Public Safety will be providing Child I.D. Kits. The I.D. kits will allow parents to fingerprint their children in the convenience of their homes. The fingerprints along with pertinent information will be stored at the home for use in the event the child should become missing. It is also recommended to keep a current photograph with the prints. The kits may be picked up at the Willcox Department of Public Safety at 151 W. Maley St.

For more information about the Child I.D. Program, contact Penney Bell, Victims Advocate at (520) 384-4673 ext. 225

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

L. Garcia, Director



RIOS PROMOTED!

Detective Jose Rios has recently been selected for the position of Detective Sergeant. He has served with the Department since 1994, the Detective Division for six years and has received numerous awards and commendations for his outstanding performance within the Department and overall service to the law enforcement profession.

In his new position, Detective Sgt. Rios will supervise the Detective Division, and oversee case status, evidence storage and security. In addition to these duties, he will also supervise programs such as warrant details, home arrest, and special task force cases. He will also serve as the liaison to the County Attorney's Office, and the Courts.



New Code Enforcement Officer

Laurie Armstrong was recently selected among several other candidates for the position of Code Enforcement Officer. Ms. Armstrong was hired by the Department earlier this year as a Reserve Dispatcher. Her background in the law enforcement environment, and public service will make her a valuable asset to the Department and the Code Enforcement Division. Please join us in welcoming her to our community, and support her in her efforts to clean up our city.



The Willcox Department of Public Safety 9-11-02

Employees Honored on 9-11

On September 11, the Willcox Department of Public Safety held the first annual 9-11 Employee/Department inspection and recognition ceremony, and plans are to continue the tradition annually.

The ceremony not only recognized the events of 9-11-01, but also allowed us to pay tribute to our own public safety personnel who serve through their profession, and their dedication to protect the property and citizens of our community.

The ceremony began with an impressive display of the staff in full uniform, aligned and prepared for individual inspection, which was conducted by Lt. Jake Weaver. VIP's present were; City Councilman Kelly Rowden, City Manager Gilbert Davidson, Judge Judy Bethel of JP 4, and City Magistrate Gary Hatch. Following the speeches/addresses made by each VIP, awards were given to those individuals who have exemplified outstanding service and dedication throughout the past year.

This year's recipients were:

Legion of Honor:

Awarded to Detective Cpl. Jose Rios for injuries he received while assisting in the apprehension of a felon on August 8, 2002. As a result of his injuries, medical attention was required as was lost time from work.

Honor Award for Public Service:

Awarded to Patti Ackerson-Rodriguez, Assistant Fire Chief, for her dedication to the department and volunteer services.

Honor Award for Public Service:

Awarded to Cpl. Joseph Ferguson for his outstanding dedication to volunteer work and the Explorer Program.

Honor Award for Public Service:

Awarded to Chaplain Stephen Kibler for his dedicated volunteer services to the department and the community.

Following the awards, the ceremony was brought to a close with the ringing of the brass bell, and the hymn of "Taps". The ceremony was described as moving, powerful, and touching, all of which have set a precedence for future 9-11 remembrance ceremonies.



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City Council and Commissions Schedule

Name	Location	Day	Time
Parks and Recreation Commission	Council Chambers 207 W. Maley Street	2nd Tuesday	5:00 p.m.
Mayor and City Council	Council Chambers 207 W. Maley Street	1st & 3rd Monday	7:00 p.m.
Willcox Historic Preservation Commission	City Hall/Depot 101 S Railroad Ave., Suite A	3rd Tuesday	Noon
Willcox Public Library Commission	Library Conference Room 207 W. Maley Street	3rd Wednesday	6:30 p.m.
Planning and Zoning Commission	Council Chambers 207 W. Maley Street	4th Wednesday	7:00 p.m.