



TOWN OF CLARKDALE - A 2012 CENTENNIAL TOWN

“SMALL TALK” OF THE TOWN



September 2012 Volume

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CLARKDALE FLAG CORPS

The Clarkdale Flag Corps is a group of volunteers who are responsible for posting flags along Main Street and in Centennial Plaza in Clarkdale, AZ. On 12 designated dates per year and on other dates as may be appropriate, Flag Corps members post the flags in the morning, and remove them before sunset.

ensure that at least 4 members are available on each of the 12 days per year to ensure that the Flags are posted in the morning and taken down in the evenings.

Working through a designated Flag Corps Coordinator, Corps members will work together to

If you are interested in volunteering to be a member of the Clarkdale Flag Corps, please contact Margie Hardie in the Town of Clarkdale Community Services Department, (928) 639-2441 or email Margie.Hardie@clarkdale.az.gov. Please join us!

Become an Inaugural Member of the Clarkdale Flag Corps!

Table with 6 columns: Designated Dates, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016. Rows include Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday, Arizona's Birthday, President's Day, Peace Officer's Memorial Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Patriot Day, Columbus Day, Veteran's Day, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. Includes American flag icons.

CENTENNIAL PLAZA BRICK LEGACY PROGRAM



Be a part of history making in Clarkdale! Spaces are still available for Legacy Bricks in the Centennial Plaza courtyard.

Bricks are \$100 and can be engraved with three lines of text at a maximum of 14 letters per line. Legacy Bricks may be used to

remember a loved one, honor a family member, commemorate an important date in your life or to immortalize your poetry skills.

Order forms are available on the Town's website and at the Community Development Department. For information, please call Community Development at 639-2500.



TOWN EXPLORING WATER SYSTEM UPGRADES THROUGH WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AUTHORITY

After identifying that water would be the single most important issue affecting the growth, culture and economy of the Verde Valley for the future, the Town of Clarkdale and the City of Cottonwood worked throughout the early 2000s to bring the private water service providers in the upper Verde Valley under public ownership. In January, 2006, the Town of Clarkdale became the owner of the Clarkdale Municipal Water Utility, a system that until that time had been privately owned. Public ownership of the water system has long been recognized as essential to long-term land use planning, effective water conservation efforts and overall quality of life in Clarkdale. However, ownership of a water system that includes pipes and storage facilities that date from the early 20th century doesn't come without its challenges!

Since the Town of Clarkdale took over the operations of the Clarkdale Water System, we have completed several capital improvement projects that have updated various distribution system components and water main lines, and resulted in reduced service outages to system users, more consistent system pressures, enhanced system security, and improved fire protection for residents. Additionally, the Town has adopted policies that promote water conservation and continues to explore opportunities to ensure a sustainable water supply for Clarkdale residents. As a result of public ownership of the water system, we've seen more than a 50% decrease in per capita water usage in Clarkdale.

The most critical infrastructure needed on our water system is the replacement of the "Twin 5s" water mains. These major transmission lines are necessary to move water between the town's two water storage sites (the Haskell Springs Reservoir and the 89A Reservoir), thus impacting water service to all Clarkdale Water Utility customers. Currently, the Twin 5s run through rugged

undeveloped terrain, are above ground in numerous locations, and cross private properties in several areas. Susceptible not only to the effects of their age (they were built in the early 20th century when Clarkdale was still a "company town"), the location and condition of the lines makes them vulnerable to natural disasters, accidental and intentional damage, and to the introduction of chemical or biological agents into the Town's potable water system.

The Twin 5s Water Main Replacement Project would replace and relocate approximately 10,000 linear feet of the two above-ground 5" steel water mains and the existing 8" asbestos concrete (AC) main with a single 12" water main. The project would also include the installation of additional fire hydrants and would tie the new mains into existing service connections.

In 2008, the Town of Clarkdale began concerted efforts to secure the funding necessary to complete this important project. At the time, the construction estimate for the project was \$3.6 million. After several unsuccessful attempts at a federal appropriation for the project, the Town decided to phase the project, and fund the engineering/design first, in order to be better positioned should an available funding source arise. Through a grant from the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) and using the utility's existing system improvement funds, the project design was virtually complete by late 2011.

In July, 2012, the Town was contacted by WIFA, who had identified a federal program (the EPA's "Fix It First Program") that could offset \$800,000 of the project cost through a forgivable principle program. With construction cost reductions in the intervening 4 years (the project is now estimated to cost \$1.8 million which includes a

contingency amount of \$200,000), and the funds available through WIFA, the Town of Clarkdale now has an opportunity to move forward with this essential infrastructure project.

Financing for the project is recommended to include \$200,000 from the Town's Water Utility Depreciation Account, \$800,000 from the "Fix It First Program", and \$800,000 that will be financed through a low-interest loan from WIFA. Payback of the loan portion of the project will require a system-wide rate increase of approximately \$3.20 per connection per month.

During their August 14, 2012 Council Meeting the Town Council took the first step necessary to pursue a WIFA loan



for this project. The Town Council will have to make additional decisions in the future if they want the Town to proceed with this project. Several opportunities for public input on the project and its funding are available. The next two opportunities for input during public meetings will occur at the September 11, 2012 Regular Council Meeting, and the October 23, 2012 Special Council Meeting. If you have any questions about the project or the upcoming meetings, please contact the Utilities Department at (928) 639-2520. If you cannot attend the meetings, but would like to submit written comments, please address them to: Utilities Director Wayne Debrosky, Town of Clarkdale, P.O. Box 308, Clarkdale, AZ 86324.

