

Willows Monthly - August 2025



Top Stories

- Meet the new City Librarian!
- City of Willows still recruiting for a Fire/Public Works Mechanic
- Planning Commission Passes Retail Cannabis Conditional Use Permit
- Fall Soccer Registration is open!
- September is Library Card Sign-up Month

Upcoming Meetings

City Council

- [August 26 - Regular Meeting @ 6:00pm](#)
- **September 9** - Regular Meeting @ 6:00pm

Library Board

- [August 28 - Special Meeting @ 11:00 am](#)

Planning Commission

- **September 2** - Regular Meeting @ 6:00pm

ADMINISTRATION

General Operations, City Clerk's Office & Economic Development



Meet the New City Librarian!

When: **Wednesday, September 3 from 5:30-6:30 PM**

Where: **Willows Public Library, Eubanks Room**

The City of Willows is delighted to welcome Christine Watson as its new City Librarian!

Christine brings more than a decade of experience in library leadership, education, and community engagement. She has served in roles ranging from

Teacher Librarian to Digital Learning Specialist, overseeing operations across multiple campuses, developing inclusive programs, and building strong partnerships with schools and civic organizations. Holding a Master of Library and Information Science, Christine has consistently advanced literacy, digital equity, and lifelong learning. She is especially passionate about ensuring libraries remain vibrant community hubs that provide both traditional resources and innovative digital services.

In her own words, Christine is eager to “lead the Willows Public Library into its next chapter of excellence and service” by fostering an inclusive, welcoming environment and expanding access to modern resources.

The Council and city staff are excited to welcome Christine to the community and look forward to the vision and energy she will bring to the Willows Public Library.

☑ Be sure to stop by and say hello on September 3!

City of Willows Continues to Recruit for a Fire/Public Works Mechanic

The City of Willows continues to recruit for a skilled Fire/Public Works Mechanic to join

the city's dedicated team. This crucial position supports both the Willows Fire and Public Works Departments by maintaining and repairing a wide range of vehicles and equipment essential to keeping the community safe and maintaining smooth operations.

The city is looking for a Mechanic with strong mechanical experience, problem-solving skills, and a commitment to public service. The ideal candidate will be comfortable working on fire apparatus, heavy equipment, and city vehicles, ensuring they are safe, reliable, and ready for use at all times.

This is a great opportunity to make a difference in the community while working alongside a supportive and professional team.

For more information about the position and how to apply, please [visit the city's website](#) or contact Karleen Price, City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager, at kprice@cityofwillows.org.

CITY COUNCIL ACTION ROUNDUP:

July 22 and August 12 City Council Meetings

July 22, 2025 Council Meeting

- Adopted the job classification for a new Retired Annuitant Library Clerk – Extra Help position.
- Adopted Resolution 27-2025 approving the California Statewide Communities Development Authority (CSCDA) Open PACE Program.
- Adopted Resolution 28-2025 authorizing the City Manager to sign an agreement with Site Work Solutions for \$1,164,082.49 to construct sanitary sewer improvements in connection with the FY 2024-2025 Sewer Rehabilitation Project and establish an overall budget for the project of \$1,430,490.74.
- Adopted Resolution 29-2025 authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with Geocon Consultants, Inc. to provide geotechnical services for the Willows Wastewater Treatment Ponds.
- Adopted Resolution 30-2025 confirming costs of weed abatement and declaring them a special assessment as of August 4, 2025.
- Approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Willows ('City') and the Museum Society of Willows ('Society').

August 12, 2025 City Council Meeting - CANCELLED

Proclamations



National Disc Golf Day (August 2)
Presented to Dr. Billy Throm



Purple Heart Day (August 7)
Presented to Carol Lemenegar, VFW

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES

Building, Code Enforcement, Engineering, Planning, Public Works, Sewage, Public Facilities, Fleet and Capital Projects

Code Enforcement Division

Unpermitted Cooked Chicken Sale

Code Enforcement, in coordination with County Environmental Health, worked to stop a planned unpermitted cooked chicken sale on Southgate Drive. Selling prepared food without City approval and County health permits violates the City's Municipal Code and County regulations, which require inspections for safe cooking temperatures, handwashing, and cross-contamination prevention, creating a serious public health and safety risk.

Unpermitted Pop-Up Food Vendor

Periodically, an illegal pop-up tent has been located at the corner of Enright and Wood Streets during evening hours. As the vendor is not permitted and these activities pose a serious public health and safety risk, the City requests that the public not purchase or consume food from this vendor.

City staff have been working with Environmental Health, the Bureau of Reclamation

and the Glenn County Sheriff's Office to shut down operations. On at least two occasions, the illegal operative has trespassed on the property of the Glenn County Sheriff's Office and the Bureau of Reclamation. In addition, Environmental Health has also disposed of the vendors food in the garbage. Staff will continue to pursue further action as previous measures have been ignored.



Unpermitted Pop-Up Food Vendor

Willows Municipal Code Fun Fact:

Title 8- Health and Safety

Chapter 95- Food and Food Handlers

8.15.040 Permits – To operate.

Original permits to operate a food handling establishment will be issued by the health officer after receipt of an application made on a form supplied by the health department. Permits are effective for one year from the date of issue, and must be renewed annually. Original permits are required when a food establishment is first opened, ownership is changed, and after extensive remodeling.

Operating permits will be renewed annually and automatically by the health officer unless the permit is suspended or revoked. Following suspension or revocation, the operating permit will be reinstated as soon as inspection by the health officer reveals compliance with all pertinent state laws and regulations. [Ord. 443 § 4, 4-10-67. Prior

GLENN COUNTY Planning & Community Development Services Agency Environmental Health Department		
225 N Tehama St. Willows, CA 95988 Tel: 530.934.6102 Fax: 530.934.6103 www.countyofglenn.net		Mandy Thomas, Director
FOOD FACILITY PERMIT APPLICATION <small>This form must be completely filled out and signed for a new food facility permit or change of ownership.</small>		
Name of Facility: _____		
Food Facility Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____		
Facility Phone Number: _____ Facility Fax Number: _____ Email: _____		
Business Owner Name(s): _____		
Ownership Status of Above: <input type="checkbox"/> Sole Proprietor <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> LLC		
Owner Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____		
Owner Phone Number: _____ Owner Fax Number: _____ Email: _____		
Does the above owner(s) operate or own other food facilities in Glenn County? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		
Is this a change of ownership? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO Previous name of facility: _____		
Was this location previously operated as a retail food facility? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		
Type of food establishment: Check the one that best describes the type of establishment you are operating:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Restaurant (0-25 seats)	<input type="checkbox"/> Med. Restaurant (25-50 seats)	<input type="checkbox"/> Large Restaurant (over 50 seats)
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Market (under 1,000 sq. ft.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Medium Market (1,000-4,000 sq. ft.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Large Market (over 4,000 sq. ft.)
<input type="checkbox"/> Incidental Foods (under 300 sq. display area)	<input type="checkbox"/> Produce Stand	<input type="checkbox"/> Fine Market/Steak Meat
<input type="checkbox"/> MFP - Packaged Food Only	<input type="checkbox"/> School Cafeteria	<input type="checkbox"/> Commissary
Facility Water Supply: <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private		
I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the above statements are correct and true. I hereby consent to all necessary inspections made pursuant to law and incidental to the issuance of this Permit and the operation of this business.		
Signature: _____ Date: _____		
Official Use Only Date: _____ Fee Paid: _____ Receipt #: _____ Rec'd by: _____		

Engineering

Lift Station Rehabilitation Project

With support from the Public Works Division, the city's contractor, SnL, has completed upgrades to the Lassen Street lift station and are now working on Pacific Avenue. Upcoming work projects at Road 57, Sycamore and Cherry Streets will also start soon.

This project is focused on replacing aging lift station infrastructure to:

- Improve system reliability,
- Reduce long-term maintenance needs, and
- Extend the service life of the City's wastewater system.

New Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) technology will also be installed at each lift station in order to provide:

- 24/7 remote monitoring,
- Instant alarms for equipment faults,
- Performance tracking and trending,
- Faster response times to issues, and
- Fewer confined-space entries for staff, improving safety.

Phased project construction is intended to limit disruptions while crews work to maintain public access in the neighborhoods near the work sites. Once complete, the improvements will help prevent sewer overflows and ensure a safer, more dependable sewage system for the entire community.



Sewer Replacement and Rehabilitation Project

The City of Willows has executed a contract with Site Work Solutions to replace and rehabilitate critical sections of the city's sewer system.

The project scope includes:

- **Alley Sewer Replacements:** Public Works will fully excavate and replace deteriorated sewer mains in the alley west of North Valley Indian Health and in the alley running in front of ITF. These lines are too damaged for spot repairs and must be completely replaced.
- **Sacramento Street Trunk Rehabilitation:** From the GCID canal to Sycamore Street, the trunk line will be upgraded using cured-in-place pipe (CIPP), a trenchless

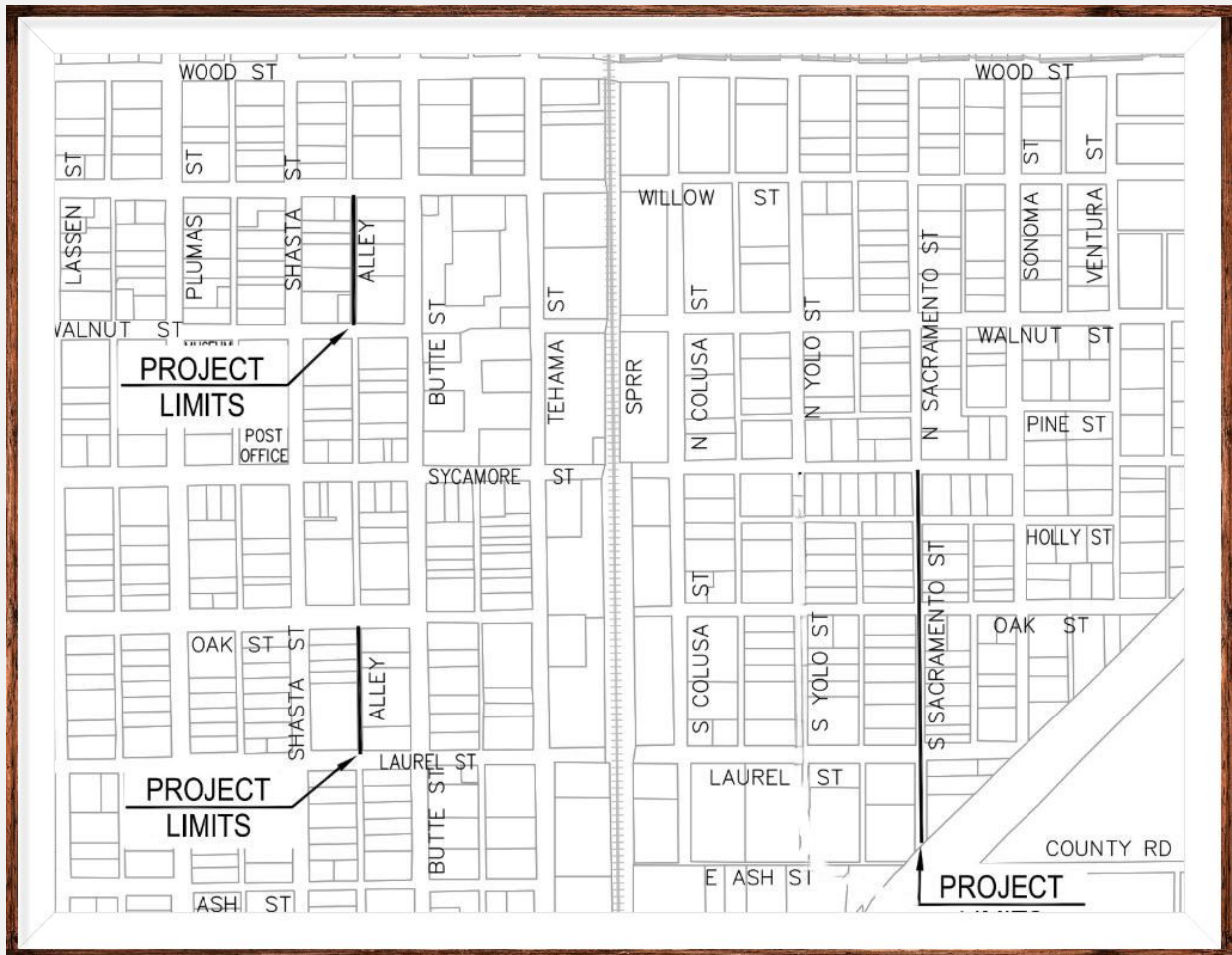
method that reinforces existing pipes without full excavation.

The project benefits to the Community include:

- Reduces inflow and infiltration,
- Improves system capacity and reliability,
- Lowers emergency maintenance needs and risk of sewer backups, and
- Minimizes traffic and driveway impacts through trenchless CIPP methods.

After each construction phase is completed, the streets and alleys will also be restored. While some disruption is unavoidable, the City and Site Work Solutions are committed to minimizing impacts and maintaining public access for residents and businesses as much as possible.

City staff sincerely appreciate the public's patience during this important infrastructure improvement project, which will provide long-term benefits for the entire community.



Fire Station Solar

Barrier Solar has started installing solar mounts on the roof of the Willows Fire Department. Because this project is the result of a Power Purchase Agreement, the City pays a predictable price per kilowatt-hour for the solar energy produced with no upfront capital cost, and the provider handles operations and maintenance. On-site generation will lower the station's electric bills and reduce future utility rate increases,

saving General Fund dollars for other city needs.



Planning Division

Planning Commission - August 5, 2025

1. Retail Cannabis License Conditional Use Permit

- **(APPROVED) CUP 25-01** – An application for approval of a Conditional Use Permit for a 1,824 square foot cannabis dispensary at 157 North Butte Street (APN: 002-162-006).
- **(FAILED) CUP 25-02** – An application for approval of a Conditional Use Permit for a 1,803 square foot cannabis dispensary at 130 North Butte Street, Suite A & B (APN: 003-044-005).

2. Hotel Conversion to Spark by Hilton Design Review DR-25-03; Conditional Use Permit CUP-25-03 **(APPROVED)**

The Deluxe Inn at 457 N. Humboldt Avenue will be rebranded as a Spark by Hilton and expanded by 36 rooms, bringing the total to 73. The project brings new investment and jobs, adds lodging options for I-5 travelers and Thunderhill visitors, and features updated building and sign design for a cleaner streetscape. Overall, it increases the city's hospitality capacity and boosts its tax base through more overnight stays and local purchases.



Parks & Public Works Maintenance Worker Update

The City of Willows has selected a candidate for the Temporary Public Works Maintenance Worker position. The hiring is pending completion of all pre-employment screenings. The Public Works Division looks forward to officially welcoming this new team member soon!

Recreation Division

JUMP START Success!

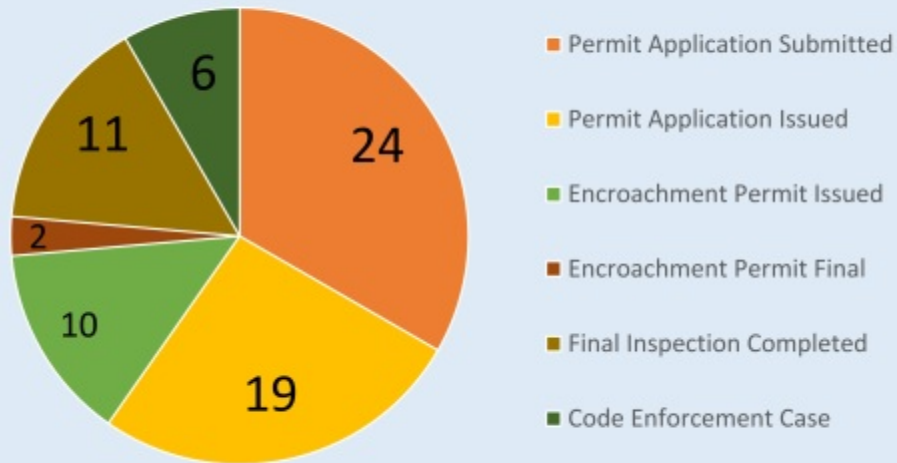
The Jump Start Program experienced tremendous engagement this summer averaging 13 students per week. The program focuses on social skills development through activities such as arts & crafts and indoor and outdoor play. These early childhood activities provide a strong foundation for social and emotional growth, helping children build confidence and cooperation skills. It offers a fun, supportive environment that gives children a head start in developing essential skills.

Fall Soccer League registration opened Sunday, August 17th!

Visit the [City of Willows website](#) or the [City of Willows Facebook page](#) to register. Divisions include ages 4 to 6, 7 to 9, and 10 to 14. **Registration closes Saturday, September 20** and the season kicks off **Saturday, September 27**. The cost is \$50 per participant. Soccer is a great way for kids to build endurance, coordination, teamwork, and confidence while making friends and staying active, and we look forward to seeing city youth out on the field!



Community Development Activity July 2025

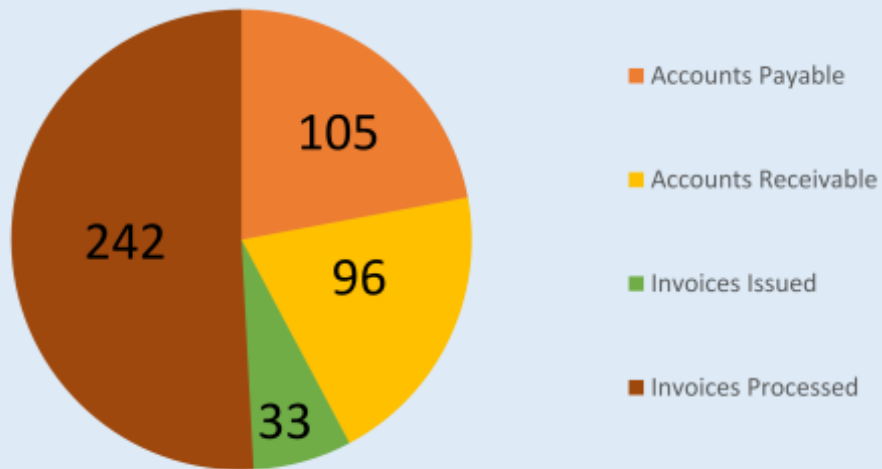


Public Works Division Activity July 2025



FINANCE

Finance Activity July 2025



FIRE

Fire Response, Prevention & Emergency Medical Services

Major Local Incidents

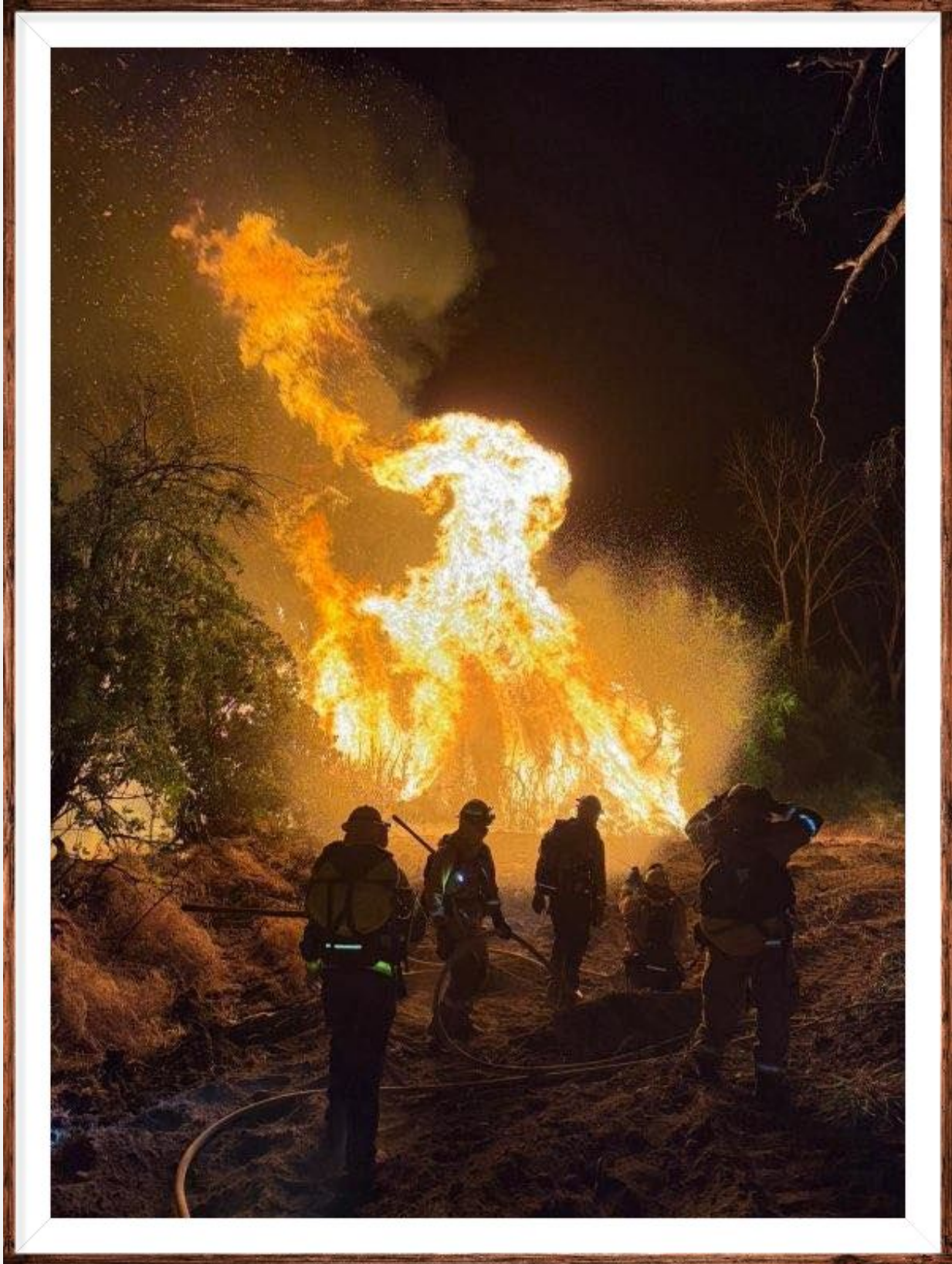
July 6 - Willows Fire Department (WFD) provided automatic aid for a commercial structure fire in the Artois response area. WFD responded with one ladder truck and one water tender. Crews assisted with fire attack, search operations, and overhaul. WFD personnel supported the incident for approximately three hours.



Willows Fire Department assisting Commercial Structure fire in Artois

July 15 - WFD was dispatched to a residence for a male experiencing difficulty breathing. WFD arrived prior to the ambulance and located one patient in severe distress. Fire personnel initiated patient care and requested an air ambulance. Upon arrival, medics determined the patient was actively experiencing a heart attack. The patient was transported Code 3 with Fire personnel accompanying to Enloe Hospital.

July 16 - As part of the Countywide automatic aid agreement, WFD assist Orland with a vegetation fire in the Stoney Creek area. Chief 1, Engine 12, Drone 2, and Water Tender 15 were deployed. WFD assisted with direct fire attack, incident overhead operations, and water supply. Resources remained committed for approximately 10 hours. The fire threatened multiple residential neighborhoods and was burning on both sides of Stoney Creek, creating difficult access conditions. Mutual aid was requested from every department in the county. The fire was contained at approximately 44 acres.



Willows Fire Department assisting vegetation fire in Artois

July 21 – WFD responded to the 1100 block of Green Street for a fall victim. Upon arrival, firefighters located one patient in severe distress after falling from a roof. Following initial assessment, an air ambulance was requested. The patient was transported Code 3 to the airport with fire personnel assisting and was subsequently airlifted to a trauma center with a severe spinal cord injury.

July 30 – WFD responded to a report of a motorcycle accident on northbound I-5 south

of County Road 39. Chief 1 arrived on scene to find a single rider with major injuries and requested an air ambulance. Artois Fire and ground ambulance units also responded. The patient was transported Code 3 with a fire rider to Enloe Medical Center.

Trainings

Controlled Burn

July 1 – WFD, in coordination with Artois Fire Department, conducted a controlled burn beginning at Tehama Street and Eureka Avenue, extending to County Road 39 along Highway 99. The objective of the operation was to reduce dead fuel loads, remove flood debris, and provide firefighters with valuable live-fire training. Special thanks to Glenn County Public Works for their assistance with traffic control.

Training Burn/Hazardous Fuels Reduction

July 8 – Willows Fire Department conducted a training and hazardous fuels reduction burn at the former City Dump. This operation successfully removed approximately 21 acres of dead and overgrown fuels.

Events

Community Outreach

Willows Fire Department recently conducted a community outreach visit at a local daycare, spending time with approximately eight children ranging in age from one to seven years old. Firefighters engaged the children in a discussion about basic fire safety and provided a tour of the fire engines. The highlight of the visit was giving the children the opportunity to handle the fire hose, with close supervision, and spray water like real firefighters. The event provided both education and fun, helping to build trust between the local children and their fire department while fostering early awareness of fire safety.



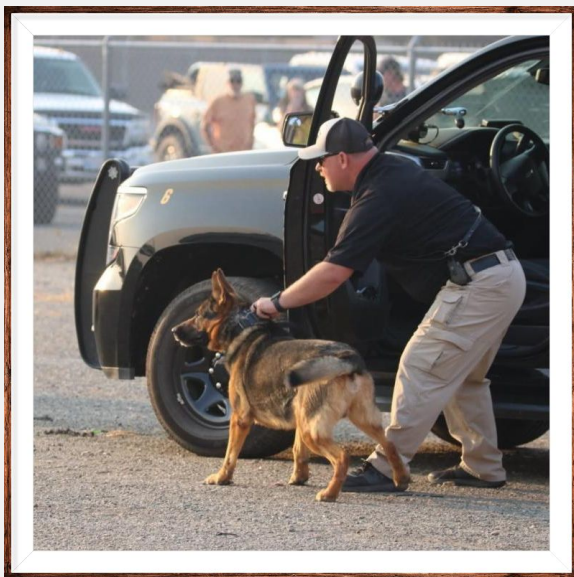
Daycare Children Learn Fire Safety



Hands-On Training

K-9 "Dutch" Honored

Willows Fire Department assisted in honoring Orland Police Department K-9 "Dutch," who passed away unexpectedly from a medical event. In coordination with Orland Fire Department, ladder trucks were positioned at County Road 27 overpass as part of the funeral procession tribute. WFD extends heartfelt condolences to the Orland Police Department family and to Dutch's handler, the Roenspie family.



K-9 "Dutch"



Flag Marking the Funeral Procession

Eskaton Manor Fire Safety Mixer and Meet-and-Greet

On July 31, the Willows Fire Department (WFD), in partnership with the Willows Fire Department Auxiliary, hosted a Fire Safety Mixer and Meet-and-Greet with the residents of Eskaton Manor. The event created a welcoming space for residents to engage with both career and volunteer fire personnel in a relaxed, educational setting.

Engineer Fuentes led a featured presentation on lithium-ion battery safety, offering practical tips to prevent common household hazards. He also introduced two important WFD community programs:

- Vial of Life – ensures first responders have quick access to a resident's critical medical information during an emergency. Participants completed forms listing conditions, medications, allergies, and emergency contacts, which were then placed in magnetized packets on refrigerators for easy visibility.
- Medication Disposal Program – provides a safe and responsible way to dispose of unused or expired medications, helping to reduce risks at home.

After the presentation, WFD members worked one-on-one with residents to complete their Vial of Life forms. The evening concluded with a community BBQ, - sharing food, stories, and camaraderie.

This event was a meaningful opportunity to strengthen connections with the community outside of emergency response. WFD extends heartfelt thanks to the residents of Eskaton Manor for their hospitality and warm welcome.



Station Projects

Fire Station Ready Racks

WFD ordered an eight slot wall mounted "Ready Rack" for the fire station. This will allow for the storage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for eight additional firefighters. Several volunteers have not had rack space for some time and have been sharing with other volunteers or storing their PPE in their personal vehicles. Staff and volunteers are enthusiastic to receive and install the rack. Needing more room for more firefighters is a good problem to have and proof that WFD is continuing to grow and attract new volunteers.

Equipment Maintenance

In the month of July, the department's extrication equipment underwent and passed annual testing and inspection. Each tool was evaluated for proper operation, pressure, and performance to ensure it meets safety and manufacturer standards. This process helps guarantee that our equipment is fully functional and ready for use in critical rescue situations. In the month of July, all Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBAs) assigned to the department successfully passed annual flow testing. This testing ensures that each unit is operating within manufacturer specifications and is safe and reliable for use in firefighting and hazardous environments. The results reflect the department's ongoing commitment to firefighter safety and equipment readiness.

Ice Machine

The Willows Volunteer Fire Department purchased a new ice machine for the fire station; it arrived last week and was installed by the volunteers. This replaced the failing unit that was approximately 10 years old. Thank you City Council for funding it and thank you WVFD for installing it!

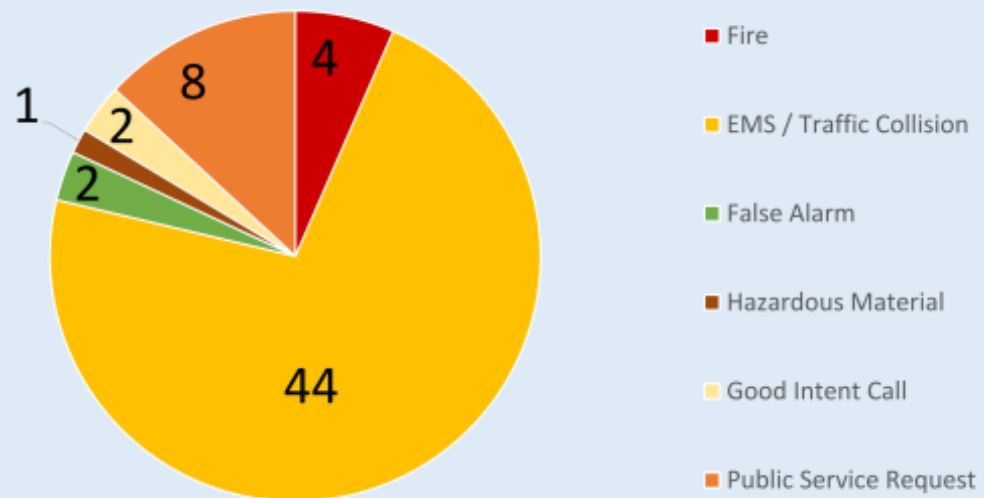
Asphalt Repair

Willows Fire Department has begun repair and replacement of the asphalt located at the rear of the station and over the site of the former drafting pit. For decades, the drafting pit was used to conduct annual pump testing of department apparatus.

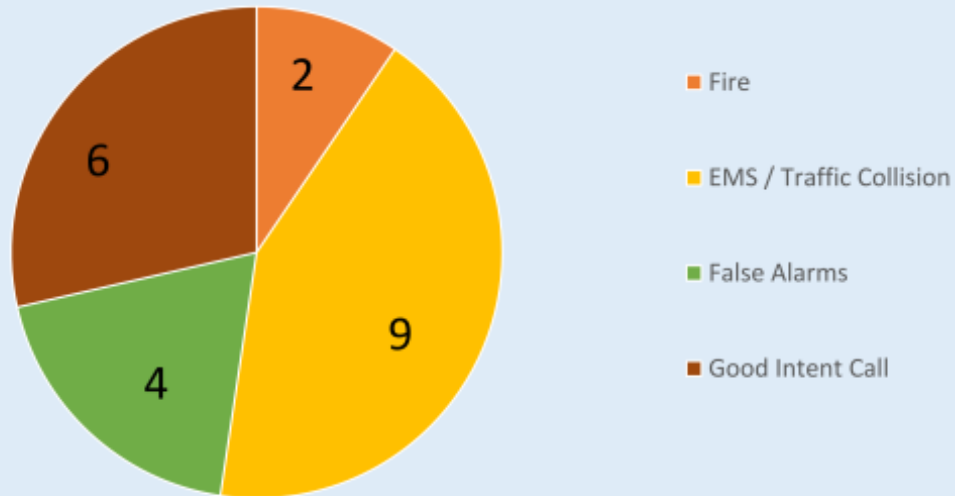
Interestingly, the "drafting pit" itself is a repurposed 10,000-gallon World War II-era fuel tank. The repair project became necessary after the tank began to deteriorate and collapse. Most of the work is being completed in-house with the combined efforts of Public Works staff and volunteer firefighters, a cost-effective approach that allows the project to be completed at a significantly lower expense compared to contracting an outside construction company. Staff anticipate that the project will be significantly below the Council approved budget - bringing greater cost savings to the General Fund!



Willows Fire Department Activity
July 2025



Willows Rural Fire Protection District Activity July 2025



LIBRARY

News and Events

Library Changes

There are some wonderful new things happening at the library! First, the city is thrilled to welcome its new City Librarian, Christine Watson, who brings fresh ideas and energy to the team. Alongside her, the City is also pleased to introduce two new Library Clerks, Colleen and Cristina, who are eager to serve the Willows community and support library visitors.

At the same time, the city bids a fond farewell to the Children's Librarian, Anjie Medrano, as she leaves for another exciting opportunity. Though change can be bittersweet, the city is thrilled about this next chapter for the library. With new faces, new ideas, and the same commitment to learning, the city looks forward to continuing to grow and serving the Willows community.

☑ Stay tuned for the release of the library's new calendar of activities—lots of exciting programs and events are on the way! ☑

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month!

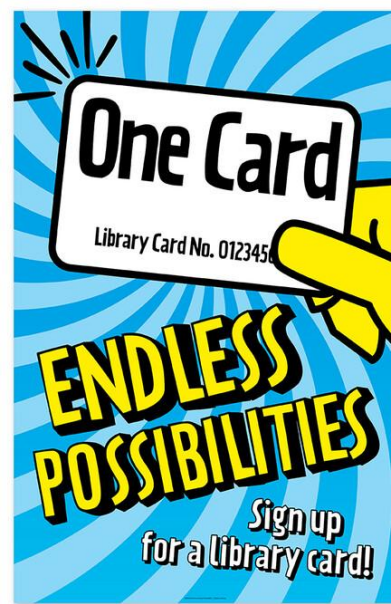
A library card is the most valuable card in your wallet—and it's free! This September, the City of Willows joins libraries across the nation to celebrate Library Card

Sign-Up Month.

With a library card, you can unlock a world of resources for all ages, including:

- Thousands of books, e-books, and audiobooks;
- Homework help and educational programs;
- Access to research tools and online databases;
- Free Wi-Fi, computer use, and technology assistance; and
- Job search and career development resources.

Whether you're a student, a parent, a lifelong learner, or simply someone who loves stories, your library card is the key to learning, creativity, and opportunity.



☐ Don't have a card yet? Signing up is easy! Visit the [Willows Public Library at 201 North Lassen Street](#) to get started.

Celebrate with us by encouraging your friends and family to sign up for a library card and discover all the ways the library can support you this fall and beyond!

Slime Day with the Children's Librarian was a huge success!

On July 17, Anjie Medrano, the Children's Librarian, hosted a fantastic event—SLIME DAY! The kids had an absolute blast creating their own slime, and it was wonderful to see so many children join in the fun. The energy, excitement, and creativity everyone brought made the event truly special.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all who donated supplies—your generosity ensured that every child was able to take part and enjoy the experience. The city is grateful for continued community support that make events like this possible!



Library Activity July 2025



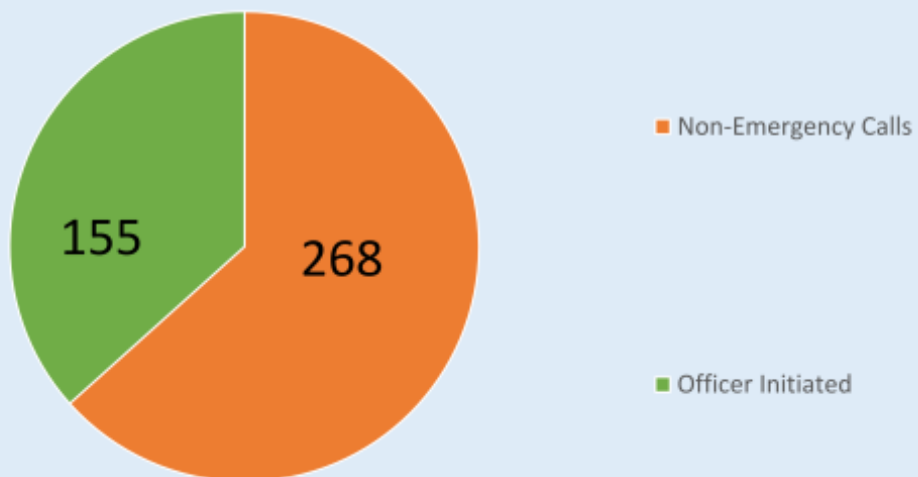
Door Count - 736

Public Computer Use - 23

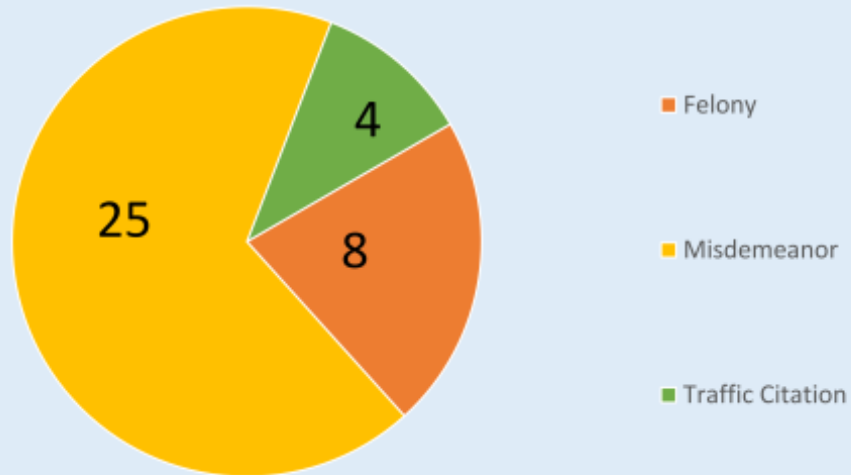


SHERIFF

Sheriff Department Activity – Calls for Service July 2025



Sheriff Department Activity – Arrests & Citations July 2025



City Of Willows

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