

Happy holidays!

Willows Monthly - December 2024



Top Stories

- New City Council Sworn In!
- Holiday Closure - Civic Center Closed December 23 through December 27
- City Council Authorizes One-Time Compensation to Bargaining Units
- Delay in Leaf Pick up - Due to Leaf Vacuum Truck Repairs
- Increased Upstaffing by the Fire Department

Upcoming Meetings

City Council

- January 14 - Regular Meeting @ 6:00 pm
- January 28 - Regular Meeting @ 6:00 pm

Planning Commission

- January 7 @ 6:00 pm, 5:30 pm Reception to meet the new City Planner (Starting January 2025, PC will meet on the first Tuesday of the month.)

ADMINISTRATION

General Operations, City Clerk's Office & Economic Development

New City Council sworn in!

On Thursday, December 5, the newly elected Willows City Council was sworn into office. Gary Hansen, Evan Hutson, and Matt Busby were elected to four year terms, and Lorri Pride was elected to a two-year term (completing the term of former Councilmember Casey Hofhenke).



Swearing In



Councilmember Matt Busby



Councilmember Lorri Pride



Councilmember Gary Hansen



Councilmember Evan Hutson

Civic Center Holiday Closure

The Civic Center will be **closed Monday, December 23 through Friday, December 27** for the Christmas Holiday. The Civic Center will also be closed on **Wednesday, January 1** and will continue to be closed on Fridays (until further notice). Please see the [Media Advisory](#) for more information.

Press Release

[Willows City Council Authorizes One-Time Compensation for Bargaining Units](#)

CITY COUNCIL ACTION ROUNDUP

November 26 City Council Meeting

- Delivered Proclamation honoring Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.
- Authorized City Manager to change from Cal Card to Umpqua Bank Card for City business.

- Accepted completion of FY 2022-23 Pavement Project Improvements and FY 2023-24 Annual Sidewalk Maintenance Project Improvements.
- Introduced first reading of Ordinance 760-2024 - Retail Cannabis Dispensary Business in Central Commercial zoning, and Ordinance 761-2024 - Retail Cannabis Dispensary Business in General Commercial and Light Industrial Zones.
- Adopted a resolution to modify distance requirements for Cannabis retail dispensary businesses.

December 10 City Council Meeting

- Confirmed 2024 November Election Certification.
- Approved \$5,000 to join Glenn County and City of Orland and participate in an energy assessment with Pioneer Energy, Community Choice Aggregator to determine whether the City of Willows should participate in community choice aggregation to procure energy at lower rates than currently provided by PG&E.
- Approved Resolutions and Agreements with the State of California to implement the 1.5% Transactions and Use Tax that was approved on the November 2024 ballot.
- Approved sewage pump repairs in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 and to be paid from the City's Enterprise Sewage Fund.
- Approved amending the City's Fire Recovery USA agreement to include a CPI escalator.
- Approved WM's Consumer Price Index rate increase of 1.9% for garbage collection.

December 17 Special City Council Meeting

- Authorized the City Manager to execute a contract amendment for time only with Prentice Long to update the Willows Municipal Code by September 30, 2025.
- Elected Vice-Mayor Evan Hutson to be the City's next Mayor and Councilmember Rick Thomas to be the Vice-Mayor.
- Appointed Councilmembers to 2025 Council Committees.
- Approved Council 2025 Meeting Calendar and Schedule.

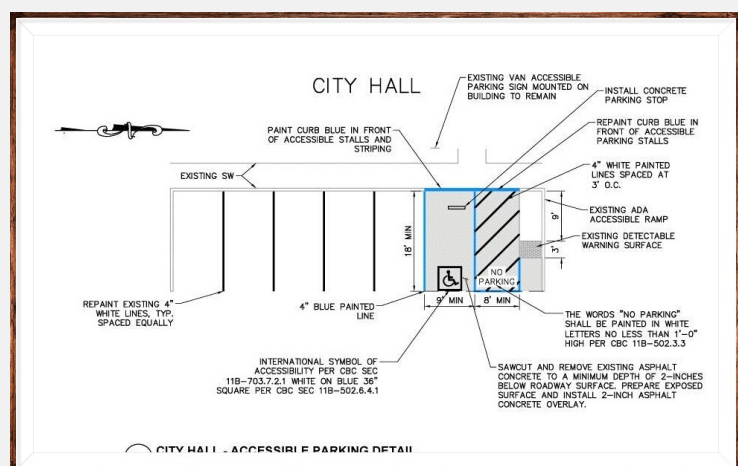
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES

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

Engineering Division

City Hall ADA Door and Parking Upgrades

This project consists of upgrading three exterior doorways located at Willows City Hall and Library with new ADA compliant doors, hardware, power-assisted door operators

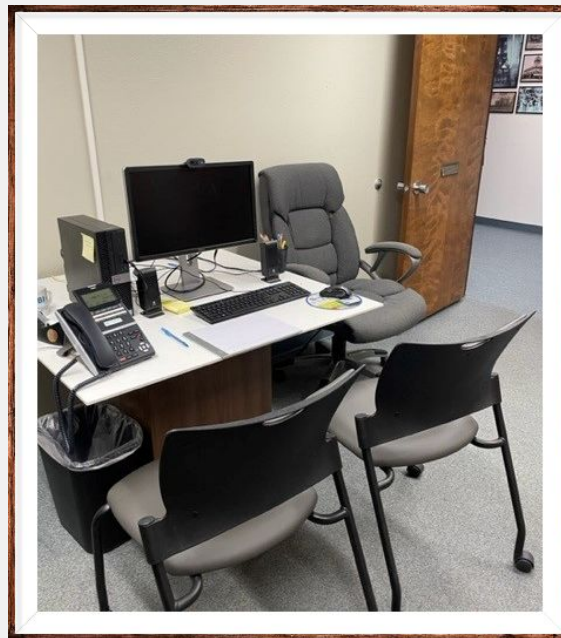


and accessible push buttons, openings, frames, and related storefront components, and electrical improvements. There will also be pavement rehabilitation in the parking lot to make ADA parking stall surfaces compliant including pathways to front entrances. New signage, markings and striping will be installed in ADA parking stalls. This project is grant funded in its entirety and will assist the mobility impaired in accessing city services.

Planning Division

New Date for Monthly Planning Meetings

At the November Planning Commission meeting it was approved to move the regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting date to the **first Tuesday of every month** with the start time remaining at 6:00 p.m.. This change in date was to avoid scheduling conflicts with the City's new planning consultants, Harris & Associates. The next Planning Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 7, 2025. This will be Harris & Associates' first in person Planning Commission meeting and an **informal reception will be held at 5:30 pm**. Please stop by and meet the new member of the Planning team!



New Office Space for Virtual Meetings with City Planner

A public office and computer has been established at City Hall so that planning applicants may schedule and participate in virtual meets with Harris & Associates Planning staff during the **Planning Division's virtual office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm**.

Public Works Division

Leaf Pickup Delay

While Leaf pickup began in early November, as many residents noticed, there have been considerable delays. The City's Leaf Vacuum Truck was out of commission for more than a month due to a failed clutch. The truck was repaired and came back online the week of December 9. While it was out of service, staff resorted to picking up leaf piles using a backhoe and dump truck, which is a much slower process. At times, even the Fire Department helped out in an effort to avoid flooding during some of the areas heavier rains this past



month. City staff appreciates the community's patience with the delays in leaf pile pickup. Now that the Leaf Vacuum Truck has been repaired, the City is back up to full speed and all piles should be removed by January.

Reminder: Please only rake leaves into piles for collection (e.g., no branches, no twigs). Piles should be located 2-3 feet away from gutters (in the street) so that they do not prevent storm water drainage.

Fats, Oils, Grease (FOG) Awareness Keep Fats, Oils and Grease out of the Sink! EPA's Report to Congress on combined sewer overflows and sanitary sewer overflows identified that "grease from restaurants, homes, and industrial sources are the most common cause (47%) of reported blockages. Grease is problematic because it solidifies, reduces conveyance capacity, and blocks flow." For more information and to learn about how you can help to keep "FOG" from impacting the City's sewage system, check out [UC Berkeley's fact sheet](#).

Recreation Division

Youth Basketball is back!

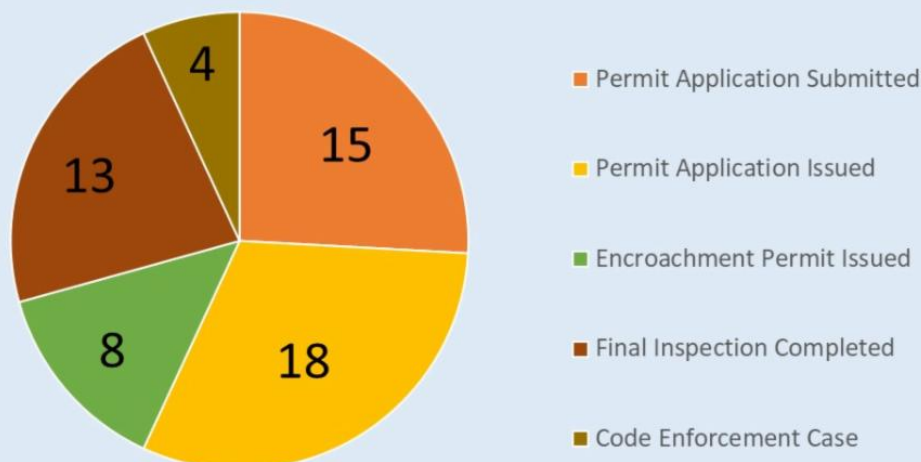
Youth Basketball Registration opened on Monday, December 2 and will close on January 12. The program will be offered on Saturdays from January 18 through March 8 and consist of three age categories:

- 12-14 years of age (9 a.m.),
- 9-11 yrs. (10:30 a.m.), and
- 6-8 yrs. (12 p.m.).

If interested, please visit the [City's recreation portal](#) to sign up or scan the QR code on the poster to the right. We hope to see you out there!



Community Development Activity
November 2024



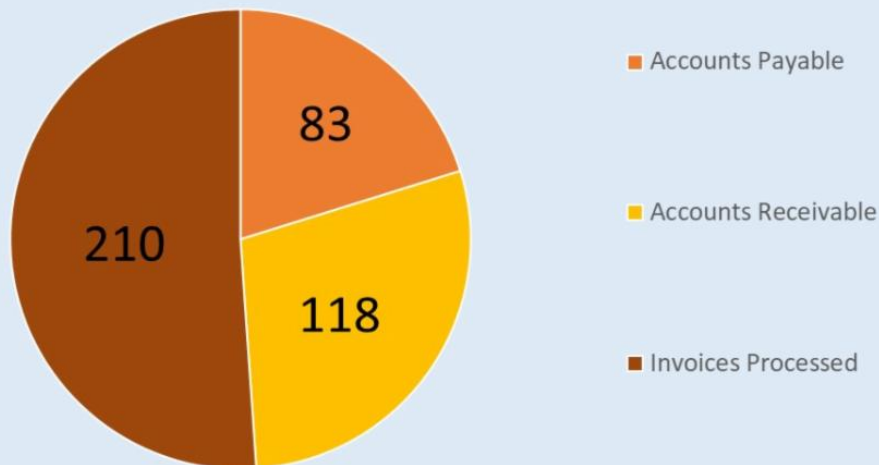
FINANCE



Business Licenses

While HdL (the City's third-party business license vendor) overlooked implementing the City's newly updated Master Fee Schedule and experienced other difficulties with the renewal process, the City is pleased to announce that it is much closer to implementing the new Tyler Technologies software and bringing business license processing back inhouse. Staff anticipates the transition will be complete by the end of the first quarter in 2025 (e.g., end of March).

Finance Activity
November 2024



FIRE

Fire Response, Prevention & Emergency Medical Services

Emergency Upstaffing & Strike Team

On November 4-6, Willows Fire Department (WFD) upstaffed a strike team for a red flag wind event. WFD staff also participated in a county wide Proposition with one engine and a strike team leader along with other Glenn County Fire Departments. All costs associated with the upstaffing was funded by the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES).

On November 19-25, WFD upstaffed a strike team for the storm surge response with one engine and a strike team leader in a County wide Preposition effort. Units from Bayliss and Artois, also on Preposition, assisted WFD and Willows Public Works with sand bagging, leaf pick up and clearing clogged storm drains. All costs associated with this upstaffing was funded by CAL OES.

Sand Bag Filling Locations

- **Hamilton City** – across from the Fire Dept. on 1st St.
- **Willows** – Public Works Willows Maintenance Yard 777 N. Colusa St.
- **Orland** – Orland City Maintenance Yard, corner of County Road 200 and County Road M



Emergency Response Highlights

On November 10, WFD responded to a mutual aid vegetation fire in Orland, along with other Glenn County units with one engine and one water tender. The fire was extinguished after about two acres had burned and no structures were damaged. The cause of the fire was determined to be arson.

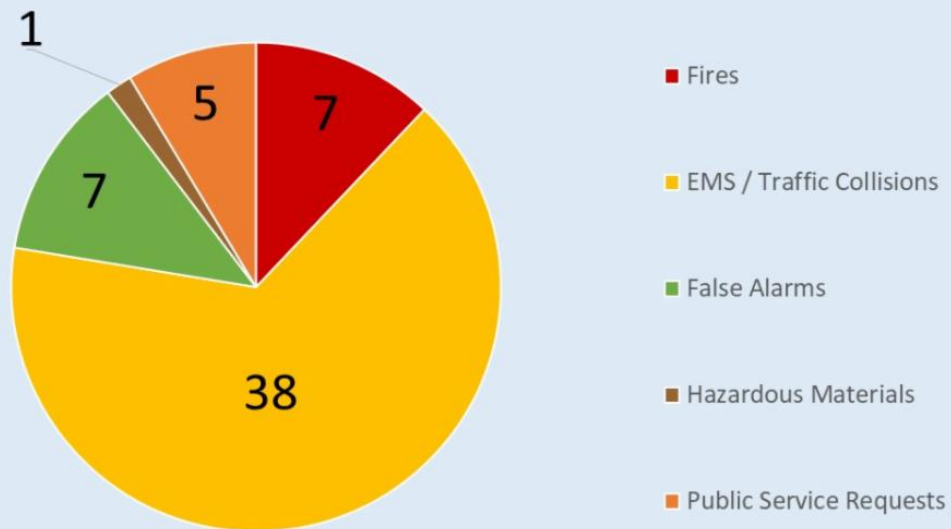
On November 16, WFD was dispatched to a residential structure fire on Donnie Lane. Later joined by automatic aid from Orland and Artois Fire, the initial WFD engine company arrived within 4 minutes of dispatch, to a residential structure with smoke showing. Units discovered a small fire in the garage from a cooking appliance. The fire was extinguished and contained to the garage. The cause of the fire was determined to be unintentional as a result of cooking. No injuries were reported.

Training

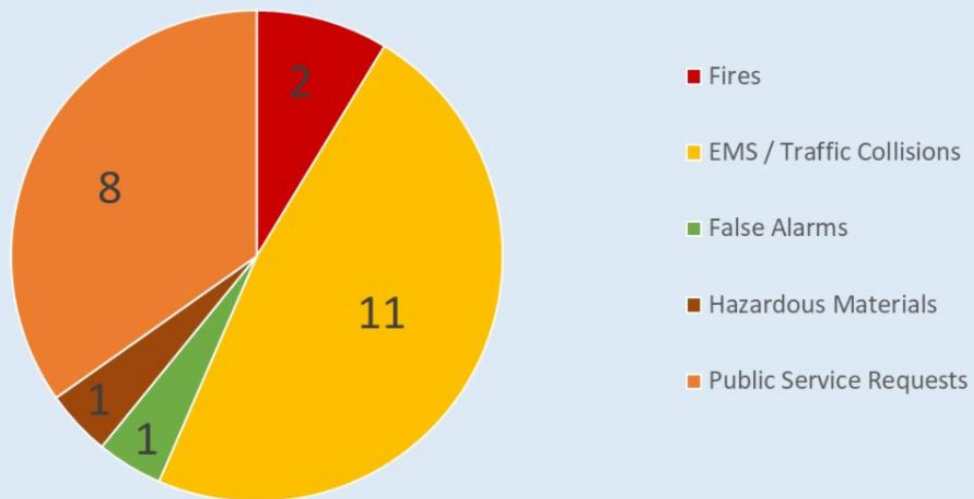
On November 5, WFD Conducted a large scale multi company mega drill at the Willows High School. Units practiced arrival drills, scene size up, incident command structure, ventilation tactics, hose deployment, water supply, mayday procedures, search and rescue and rapid intervention team deployments.

On November 12, WFD conducted training in hose deployment techniques for new members of the Volunteer Fire Department.

Willows Fire Department Activity November 2024



Willows Rural Fire Protection District Activity November 2024



LIBRARY

Dinovember!

The Willows library celebrated "Dinovember" with many fun activities for children and families throughout the month of November!



KEEP KIDS ACTIVE OVER WINTER BREAK!

Check out all the free and fun programs available at your local library!

#CaliforniaLibrariesForAll
#LibraryCardsOverCreditCards



Holiday Reading Activity

Special reading activities in December will include book and character giveaways and incentives to keep kids reading and learning throughout the holiday vacations in December and January.

Use your Library Card More!

Don't let the holidays bust your budget! Use your library card more and your credit card less. Get free access to movies, books, magazines, activity kits, and state park passes at the library.

DON'T LET THE HOLIDAYS BUST YOUR BUDGET!

Get free access to movies, games, books, and state park passes. Use your library card more and your credit card less.

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Willows Library Board of Trustees

The Willows Library Board of Trustees will meet on December 20, at 11:00 am in the Eubank Room at the Library.



DECEMBER

2024

Willows Public Library

SUN Closed	MON 1-5 pm	TUE 11-5 pm	WED 11-7 pm	THU 11-7 pm	FRI 11-5 pm	SAT Closed
1	2 STORY 11 AM	3	4	5 BLOCK PARTY 3 PM	6	7
8	9 STORY 11 AM TEEN ESCAPE ROOM 3PM	10	11 GAME DAY 3 PM	12	13	14
15	16 STORY 11 AM CRAFT 4 PM	17	18	19 MOVIE NIGHT 5 PM	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1 CLOSED	2	3	4

Dates are subject to change, please follow our Facebook page for any updates.

201 N. Lassen St. - (530) 934-5156 - willowspubliclibrary.org

Library Activity November 2024



Door Count – 780



Public Computer Use – 70



New Library Card - 16



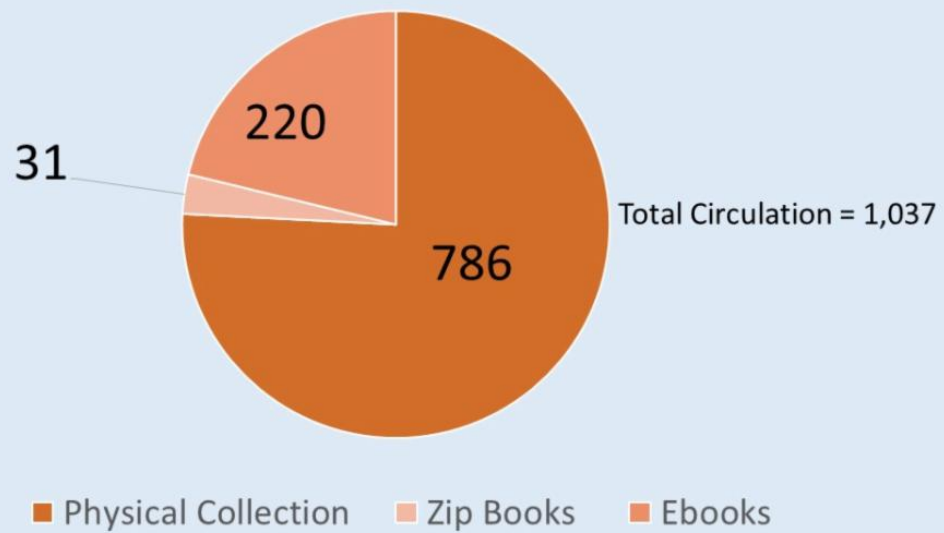
Items Added to Collection – 88



Program Participants – 59*

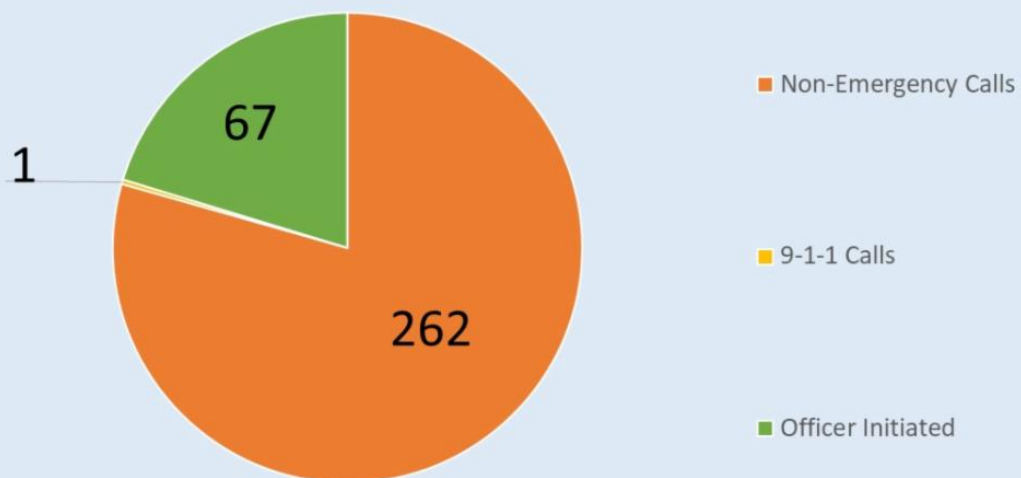
*Includes 8 programs and 49 Storytime
"To Go kits" distributed.

Circulation of Materials November 2024

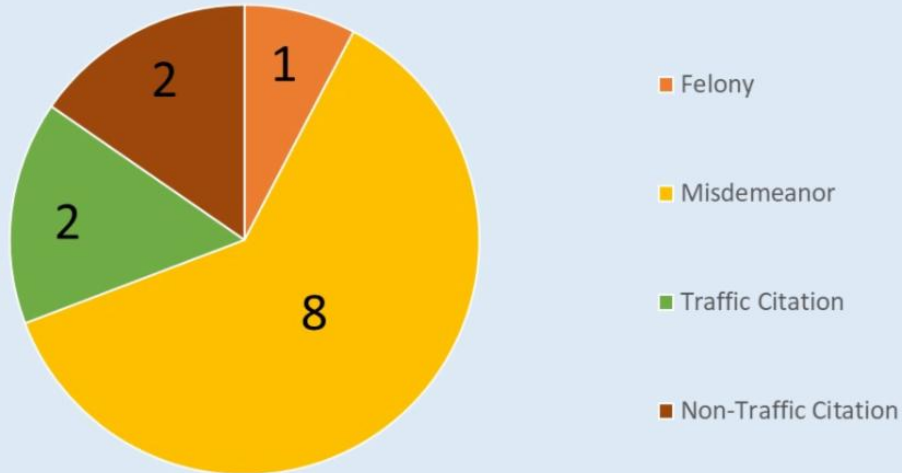


SHERIFF

Sheriff Department Activity – Calls for Service November 2024



Sheriff Department Activity – Arrests & Citations November 2024



City Of Willows

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