City of Willows
CALIFORNIA

Willows Monthly Newsletter
October 2025

Top Stories

- Another Successful National Night Out!
- Celebrating National Wildlife Refuge Week with Hawks, Honkers & Hoots
- SAVE THE DATE: Sewage Lift Station Project - Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
- California Water Service (CalWater) offers rebates
- New Planning Commissioner Appointed

- New City Mechanic Hired!
- Willows Library gets a fresh new look!

Upcoming Meetings

City Council

- **October 28** - Regular Meeting @ 6:00pm
- **November 11** - Cancelled

Finance & Measure I Committee (FMiOC)

- **October 21** - Cancelled
- **November 4** - Special Meeting @ 5:30pm

Library Board

- **October 16** - Regular Meeting @ 11:00 am

Planning Commission

- **November 3** - Special Meeting @ 6:00pm
- **November 4** - Regular Meeting Cancelled

ADMINISTRATION

General Operations, City Clerk's Office & Economic Development

Events

National Night Out & 1st Annual Bike, Trike & Wagon Parade

The community had a wonderful October 7 National Night Out with families, friends, and neighbors coming together for a fun-filled evening of laughter and community spirit.

The park was alive with activity — from the bounce house, face painting, and delicious food and treats to the colorful parade of decorated bikes, trikes, and wagons!□□□ Check out the parade highlights!

Local law enforcement, firefighters, first responders and community partners joined the celebration, meeting with residents and sharing resources while helping foster stronger neighborhood connections. Music and entertainment kept the energy high throughout the evening, creating a true block-party atmosphere. □

National Night Out is all about building relationships between neighbors and public safety partners, and this year's turnout showed just how strong and connected the Willows community truly is.

A big thank you to our sponsors, Glenn County Sheriff's Office, Office of Emergency Services, Waste Management, California Water Service and PG&E. We would also like to thank everyone who participated, volunteered, and helped make this event such a success — we look forward to seeing you again next year!

Glenn County Search and Rescue

Glenn County V.I.P.S.

SideTrax EMS

Enloe Health

Enloe EMS

NNO Attendees

Bounce House

Bike Trike & Wagon Entries

Parade Winners - Jason, Levi & Ephraim Tucker with Mayor Hutson

Parade Winner - Kaysen Galvan with Mayor Hutson

Hawks, Honkers & Hoots — National Wildlife Refuge Week Event!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Hawks, Honkers & Hoots on October 14. Families, students, and community members turned out to celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week with a special wild bird presentation. Visitors met the Bird Ambassadors up close, explored the Discovery Table for hands-on learning, and enjoyed the Willows Public Library booth. Check out Hawks, Honkers & Hoots Highlights !

The evening concluded with a special City Council Proclamation recognizing **National Wildlife Refuge Week** — honoring the incredible work being done to protect and preserve our region's natural treasures.

A heartfelt thank you to the **Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex** — though unable to attend due to the government shutdown, we deeply appreciate and celebrate the Refuge's continued efforts to conserve the wildlife that makes Willows and the Sacramento Valley so special.

Hawks, Honkers & Hoots

Meeting the Bird Ambassadors

Kelli and River the Red Shouldered Hawk

Checking out the Discovery Table

Owls have BIG EYES and so does Jeanette!

Save the Date - Upcoming Event

Sewage Lift Station Rehabilitation Project - Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Join the city in celebrating the completion of the Sewage Lift Station Rehabilitation Project — a major investment in the community's wastewater treatment infrastructure! Stay tuned for more information.

- **Location:** **Sycamore Street Lift Station**
- **Date:** **Tuesday, November 5, 2025**
- **Time:** **11:30 PM**

Proclamations

Global War on Terrorism and Desert Storm Veterans Appreciation Day
Presented to John Benningfield and Kevin Triance by Councilmember Pride

Breast Cancer Awareness Month
Presented to Janice Smith, Breast Cancer Survivor, by Councilmember Busby

National Farmers Day
Presented to Larry Domenighini, Glenn County Farm Bureau, by Councilmember Hansen

National Wildlife Refuge Week
Presented to Kelli Moulden and Bobbie, the Western Screech Owl
on behalf of the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex by Mayor Hutson

California Water Service Offers Rebates!

Cal Water continues to demonstrate its commitment to doing the right thing for its customers, communities, and the environment. Recognizing that water conservation is vital to protecting our shared resources, Cal Water is expanding its efforts to help customers save water by offering increased rebates on a variety of indoor and outdoor conservation products.

Rebates with Increased Incentives

- Residential high-efficiency toilets — up to $150
- Residential high-efficiency washing machines — up to $500
- Residential lawn-to-garden conversions — up to $5 per square foot
- Commercial high-efficiency toilets — up to $200
- Commercial high-efficiency urinals — up to $300
- Commercial lawn-to-garden conversions — up to $3 per square foot

Cal Water emphasizes that water in California is a precious and limited resource. As a community water supplier, the company views it as a shared responsibility to help customers become climate-smart water users through education, incentives, and innovative programs.

How to Apply
Rebates are available through mid-December 2025, while funds last. Customers can review eligibility requirements and apply directly online at www.calwater.com/rebates.
By participating in these programs, residents and businesses can reduce water use, lower utility bills, and contribute to a more sustainable future for our community.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES

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

Code Enforcement Division

Proactive Code Enforcement Efforts Yield Community Improvements
Code Enforcement staff continued proactive outreach and enforcement efforts throughout the community this week. Notices were hand-delivered and sent via certified mail to property owners on multiple streets for various violations.

On Tehama Street, notices addressed unpermitted construction of a building and sewer work performed without proper permits.

On Plumas Street, property owners were cited for trash accumulation and operating a business without the required license or Conditional Use Permit.

On Edgewood Lane, violations included vehicles parked on lawns and sidewalks, an over-height fence, and overgrown vegetation obstructing a streetlight.

Additionally, a property on Crawford Avenue received notice for trash accumulation.

Several property owners have already taken corrective measures, including site

cleanups and obtaining the necessary permits. For those who fail to comply, staff will proceed with fines and abatement measures in accordance with the Willows Municipal Code.

For example: Car parked on sidewalk on Edgewood Lane

Engineering

Sewage Main Replacement and Rehabilitation Project

The City of Willows has completed sewage main replacement work along Yolo Street between Oak and Sycamore Streets. Crews have also begun work on Sacramento Street, starting at the GCID canal and continuing to Sycamore Street. Locations for these upgrades were carefully selected based on detailed inspections using closed-circuit television (CCTV) footage of the underground pipes. This technology allowed the City to identify areas most in need of replacement, ensuring that repair efforts focus on the areas that will result in the greatest benefit.

Solar Project - Wastewater Treatment Plant

With the rice harvest completed on the solar field site (adjacent to the WWTP), the solar contractor has ordered all steel supports, panels, and inverters and construction is expected to commence in November. Once installed, the system will significantly reduce energy costs at the wastewater treatment plant off setting the City's PG&E bill, and promote sustainable energy use.

Planning Division

Planning Commission - October 7, 2025

1. Design Review of Wayfinding Signs (APPROVED)

At this meeting, the design of the wayfinding signs was finalized. The City extends its appreciation to the Wayfinding Ad-Hoc Committee for their time and dedication in developing the new community wayfinding signs. Committee members include Vice Chair Corum, Commissioner Nygard, Councilmember Pride (Planning Commission Liaison), Downtown Business Owner Holly Myers, and Chamber of Commerce Office Manager Colleen Carter-Watkins. The new signs will be installed at key intersections, including Wood and Lassen Streets, Butte and Wood Streets, Lassen and Sycamore Streets, Tehama and Sycamore Streets, and at the Willows Museum. These signs will improve navigation, strengthen community identity, and support local businesses and tourism.

2. Lot Merger for 245 South Sonoma Residential Lots (APPROVED)

The voluntary merger was of two parcels, APNs 003-181-009 and 003-181-011, zoned R-1 and owned by the same property owner. APN 003-181-011 is currently less than the minimum lot size required for residential use. As a result, residential development on would not be permitted.

3. Design Review of Taco Bell Painting (APPROVED)

The Taco Bell project is to paint the building exterior. The palette consists mostly of earth-tone colors with a purple accent (which required approval).

Wayfinding Sign

Taco Bell Colors

Planning Commission Vacancy Filled

The City of Willows is pleased to welcome Michael McNeil as the newest member of the Planning Commission. As a previous intern of both the City of Sacramento Office of Historic Preservation and the California Office of Historic Preservation, Michael brings valuable experience in historic preservation and architecture. His background and passion for community planning will be a great asset to the City as the Commission continues its work on projects that shape Willows' future. Michael will serve the

remainder of the unexpired term, which ends December 31, 2027. He is scheduled to be sworn in prior to the Special Planning Commission meeting on November 3, 2025.

Public Works Division

Red Curb Refresh

City staff recently completed repainting the majority of red curbs throughout Willows, focusing on areas where paint had faded over time. This work helps improve visibility, supports traffic safety, and ensures clear access for emergency vehicles. Freshly painted red curbs serve as an important reminder that these zones must remain clear at all times for public safety. Parking along red curb zones is strictly prohibited at all times.

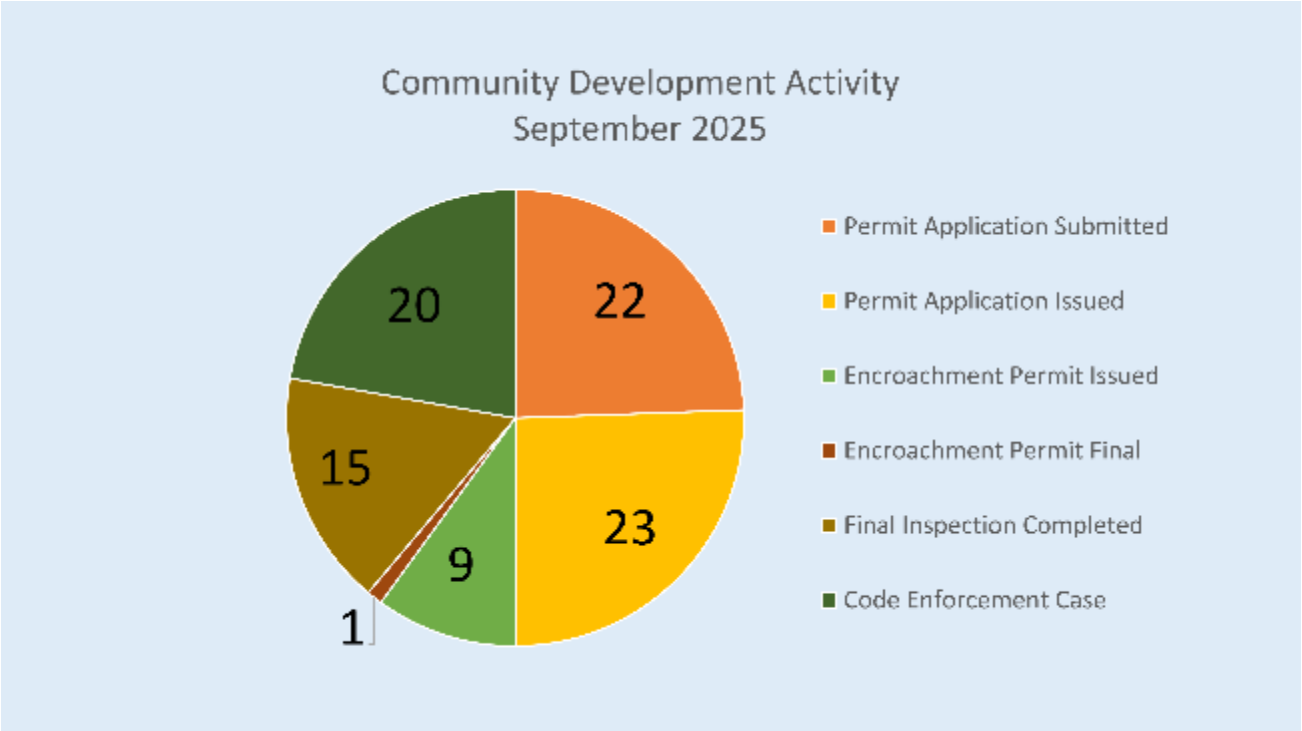
LED Solar Flashing Stop Signs - Tehama Street and Road 57

The City of Willows installed new solar-powered LED stop signs and poles at the intersection of Tehama Street and Road 57. The intersection was identified as a frequent collision incident location, and the new flashing stop signs are designed to increase visibility for approaching drivers during both the day and night. The LED lights help draw attention to the stop signs, particularly in low-light or foggy conditions, reducing the risk of collisions.

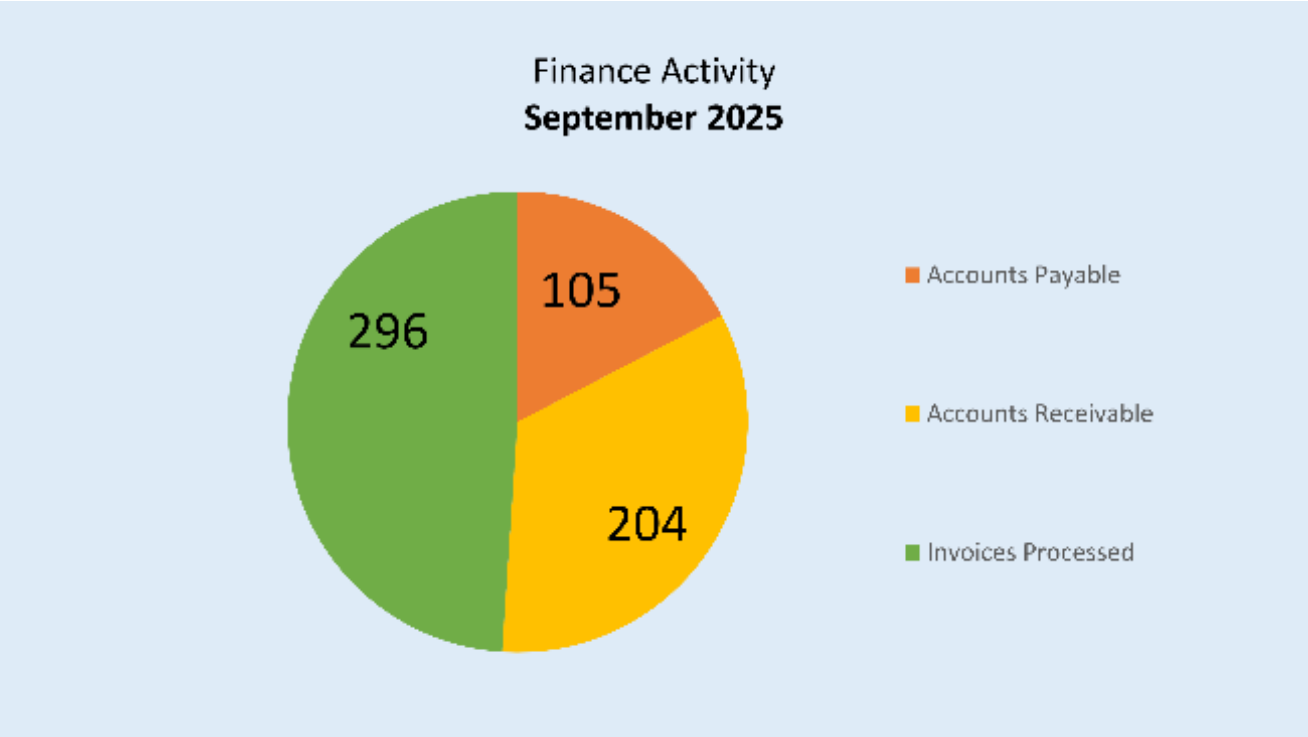
Recreation Division

Fall Soccer is underway!

With more than 100 participants between the ages of 4 and 14, t he fall youth soccer season began in late September and will continue through early November. The Recreation Department thanks the dedicated parents, coaches, and volunteers whose support helps make this program a success each year!



FINANCE



FIRE

Fire Response, Prevention & Emergency Medical Services

Strike Team Deployments

Garnett Fire

WFD Spent 16 days assigned to the Garnett Fire in Fresno County. Other Glenn county departments also participated, including Orland Fire, Glenn-Codora Fire and Hamilton Fire.

News

New City Mechanic

Travis Harris was recently hired as the new City Mechanic. He started on October 6 and has already made steady progress on much needed deferred maintenance. Travis has a wealth of experience in both the private and public sectors with his last five years of experience in the Cities of Orland and Chico as a Public Works/Fire Mechanic. Travis is certified in Emergency vehicle repair, diesels, standard automotive and more. Welcome to the team, Travis!

Code Red

The Willows Fire Department urges Glenn County residents to sign up for CodeRed alerts through the Glenn County Sheriff's Office (GCSO). Information is everything in an emergency and GCSO's CodeRed system ensures you receive critical updates quickly when it matters most.

Updates

Glenn Medical Center Update

With Glenn Medical Center Emergency Departments Closure, the WFD team is starting to learn the new normal. For example, in the past two weeks, WFD has sent fire riders to Chico to assist with critically ill patients. In the past, this was a rare ocurrence; however, from now on, more apparatus will need to respond to calls as the department adjusts its response plan to ensure that there is available equipment to respond when receiving concurrent calls.

For more information, check out these news articles regarding the closure of Glenn Medical Center:
Willows Fire Department Press Release
Willows Fire steps in to fill the gap as Glenn Medical Center closes doors
With no hospital in Glenn County, Willows Fire trains to expand emergency care

Glenn County EMS Study

In light of Glenn Medical Emergency's recent closure, Willows, Orland and Glenn County have partnered together to perform a joint EMS Study to evaluate the current state of the EMS system, assess its strengths and weaknesses, and offer potential solutions to ensure the countywide system is fiscally sustainable and feasible while offering efficient emergency response.

Major Incidents

Gas Leak

On September 29, 2025, at approximately 9:38 am, the Willows Fire Department (WFD) was notified of a gas leak caused by digging activity near South Yolo and East Oak Streets. Upon arrival, crews discovered a ¾-inch metal gas line had been ruptured and was actively leaking.

Yolo Incident Command (IC) was established, and a CODE RED alert was issued, advising residents to shelter in place within the area bounded by Colusa to Sacramento Streets, and Laurel to Walnut Streets. WFD personnel, assisted by the Glenn County Sheriff's Office (GCSO), visited door to door to ensure residents were properly notified.

The Willows Public Works Department responded to assist with road closures and barricades, while PG&E Gas crews conducted a "dig in" operation to isolate and repair the damaged line. The leak was successfully stopped at approximately 10:13 am.
All shelter-in-place orders were lifted following repairs, and no injuries were reported as a result of the incident.

Commercial Vehicle Fire

While on scene of a medical aid, WFD was dispatched to a commercial vehicle fire. Upon arrival, crews found a dump truck fully involved in flames. Fire personnel quickly contained the fire to the vehicle of origin, preventing further spread or damage.
No injuries were reported, and the cause of the fire was not considered suspicious in nature.

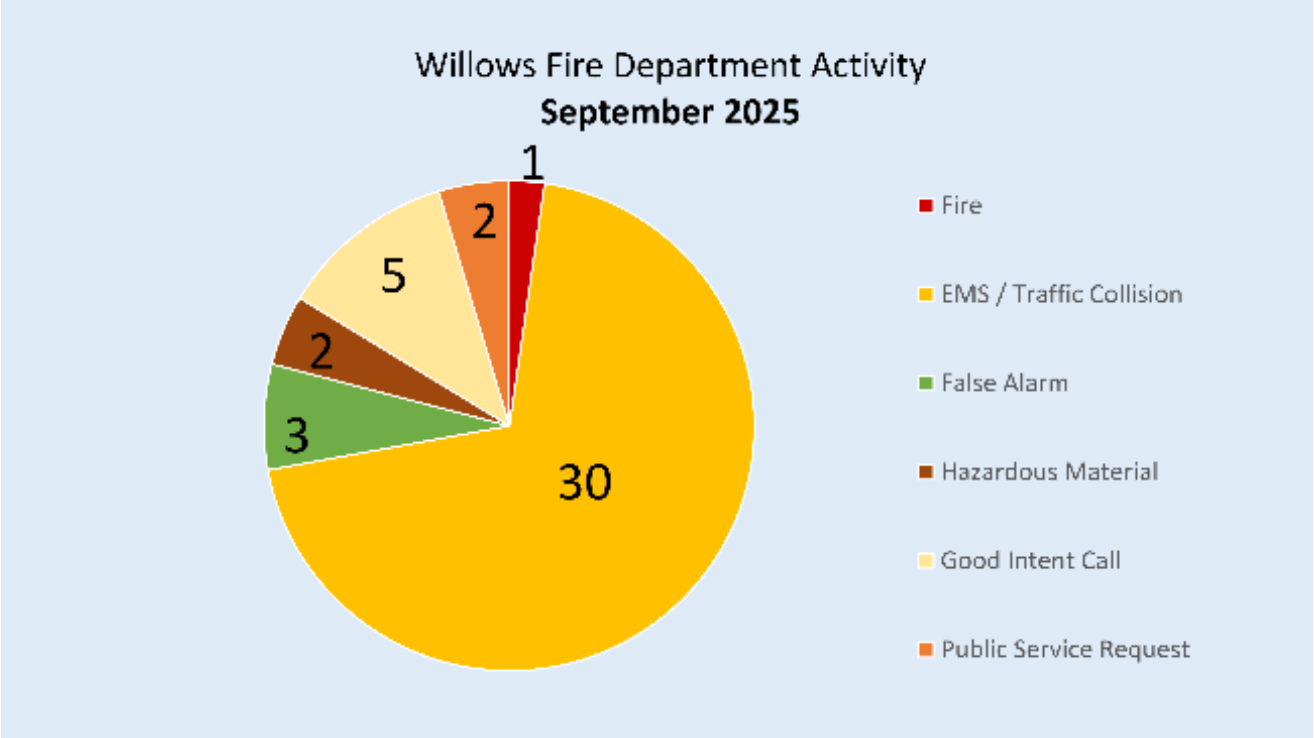
Structure Fire

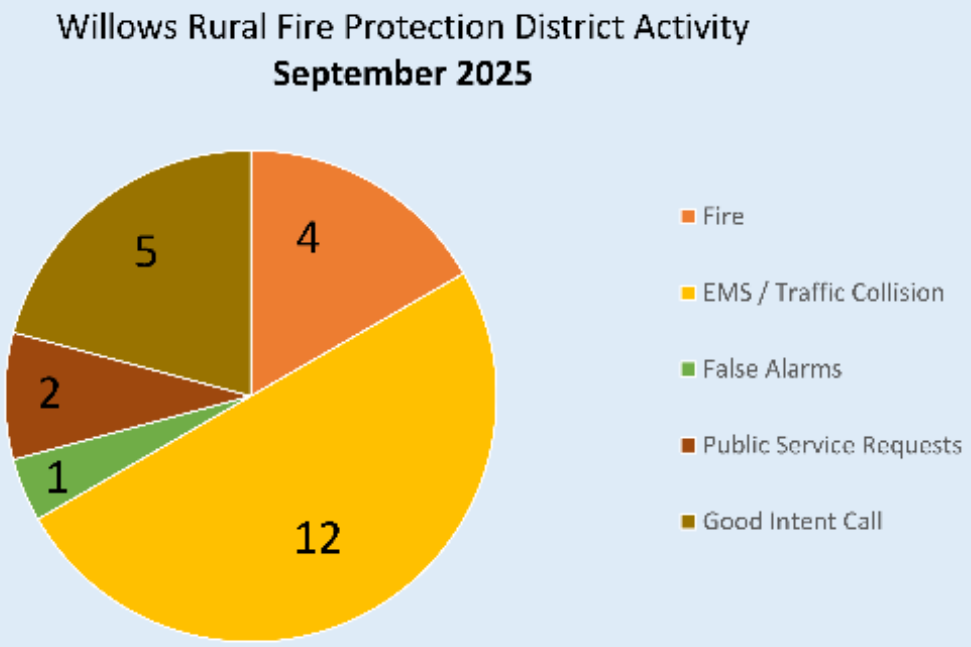
WFD responded to a reported structure fire at County Roads 57 and M. Upon arrival, crews found electrical power lines arcing and in contact with the structure with light smoke visible from the building.

Fire personnel established a safety perimeter and isolated the affected area while awaiting the arrival of PG&E. Once the utility company de-energized the power lines, crews confirmed the fire was confined to the power box. The structure was thoroughly checked for fire extension, and all remaining hot spots were extinguished.
The incident was contained to the power box with no further spread or damage reported.

Structure Fire - Automatic Aid

WFD responded with one engine and one water tender to assist in the Orland area with a structure fire. Crews worked alongside local agencies to extinguish a large barn fire that had spread into nearby vegetation.


Willows Fire Department Activity
September 2025
1
2
5
2
3
30
Fire
EMS / Traffic Collision
False Alarm
Hazardous Material
Good Intent Call
Public Service Request



LIBRARY

Willows Library Gets a Fresh New Look!

The Willows Library recently completed a major cleanup, and we are delighted to share how wonderful it's looking!

Over the past several weeks, staff and volunteers have worked hard to organize materials, refresh public spaces, and enhance the overall atmosphere of the library. Shelves have been tidied, workspaces have been reorganized, and new signage makes it easy to find your favorite books and resources. The result is a cleaner, brighter, and more welcoming environment for everyone to enjoy — whether you're coming in to study, read, attend a program, or simply relax.

We invite the community to stop by and see the improvements for yourself. Come experience the renewed charm of your Willows Library, where there's always something new to discover!

News & Events

Zip Books are back!

Staff are excited to share that the library has been awarded $4,752 for this year's Zip Books Program. Orders will be placed weekly and shipped directly to your home for your convenience.

Borrowers may keep items for six weeks before returning them to the library. Please remember that all items purchased through previous Zip Books grants must be returned to the library for processing.

New Facebook Page

Due to technical issues, the Willows Public Library Facebook page is currently inaccessible. We've created a new page, Willows Pub Lib, where we'll be sharing all upcoming events, news, and updates. Please visit and follow our new page — and don't forget to share it with your friends!

New Library Orders On Hold

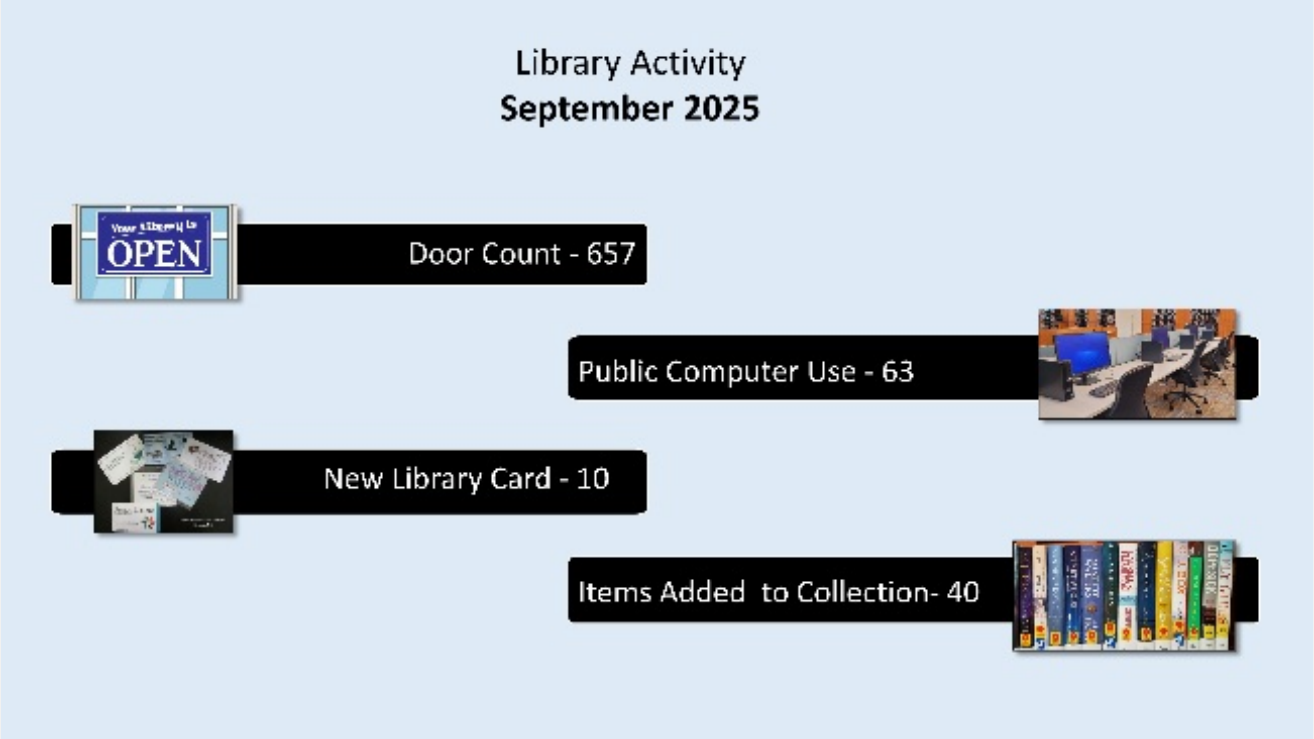
A large library vendor is likely to shutter its doors in the coming months. Many libraries have noticed slowdowns or full cancellation of orders with this company. Willows Public Library will transition to new library vendors; however, it will take time to set up new accounts and schedule new purchases. Please be patient while staff establish new accounts and get new orders underway. As the whole country is migrating to new vendors, the existing supply will be spread thin and deliveries will likely be slower. We appreciate the public's recommendations, so please speak with library staff to make suggestions or use your library account to notify library staff of any new ideas.

Happy Halloween!

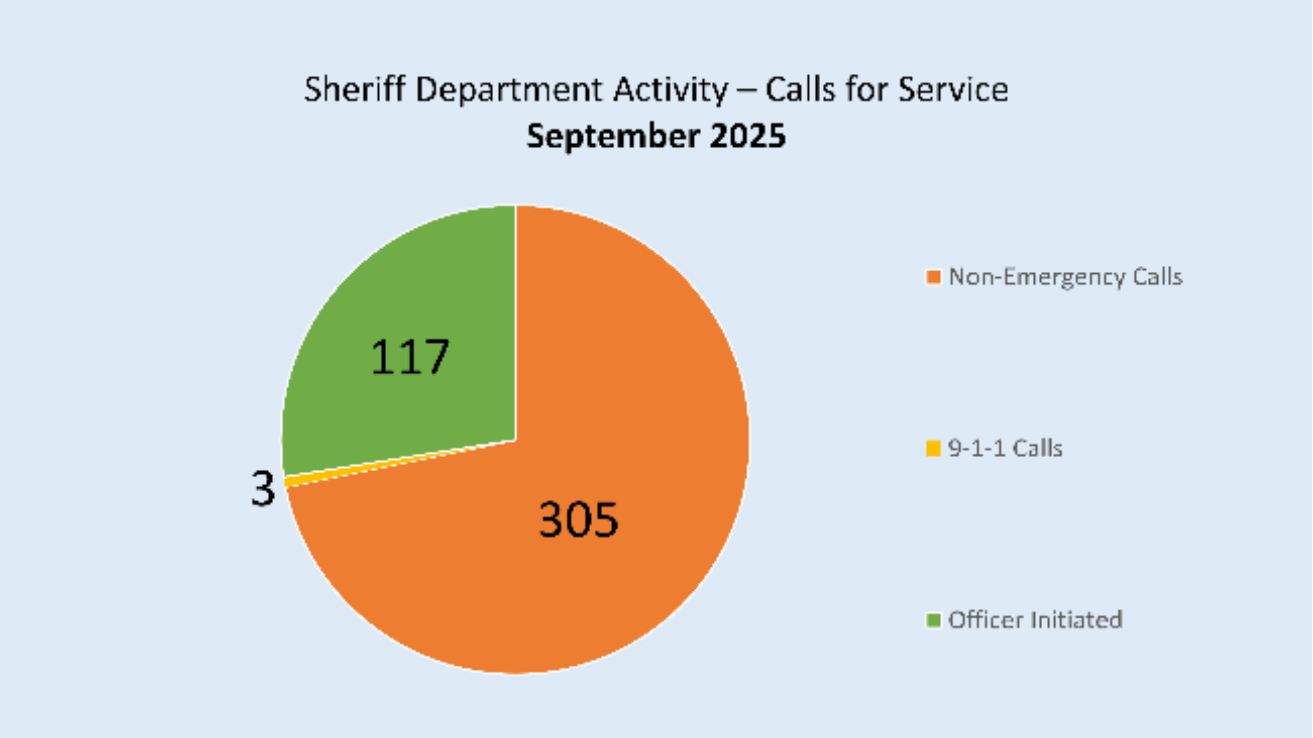
The Willows Public Library will pass out candy and treat bags on Friday, October 31 for

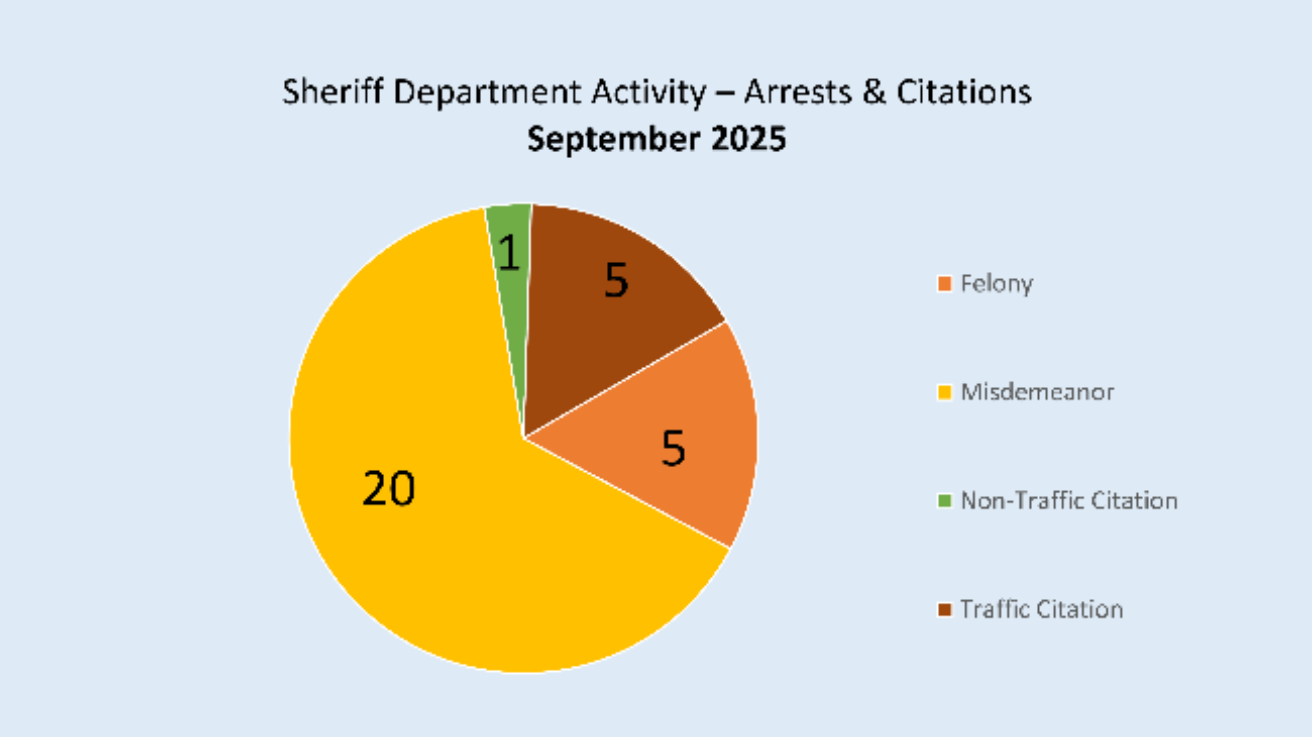
Halloween during normal operating hours from 11am to 5pm. Unwrap and enjoy a sweet treat at the library!

October Calendar



SHERIFF





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