

Willows Monthly Newsletter November 2025

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



Top Stories:

- Lift Station Improvement Project: Rescheduled Grand Opening!
- Community Spotlight:
 Museum Grand Reopening & Christmas Open House
- Community Workshop: Zoning Code Update

• KIXE PBS Storytime with Clifford the Big Red Dog

Upcoming Meetings

City Council

- November 25 Regular Meeting @ 6:00pm
- **December 9** Regular Meeting @ 6:00pm

Planning Commission

• **December 2** - Regular Meeting @ 6:00pm

Library Board

• **December 11** - Regular Meeting @ 11:00 am

ADMINISTRATION

General Operations, City Clerk's Office & Economic Development

City Event

Sewage Lift Station Project: Rescheduled Grand Opening!

The City of Willows is pleased to announce the upcoming rescheduled grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the rehabilitation of all city sewage lift stations, a significant upgrade to one of the community's essential wastewater facilities.

Originally postponed due to inclement weather, this event has been rescheduled to recognize this important city project milestone with Willows' residents.

Event Program:

- Guest Speakers Mayor and City Engineer
- SCADA System Demonstration
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
- Light Refreshments
- Flow Question: Geocache Adventure

Event Details

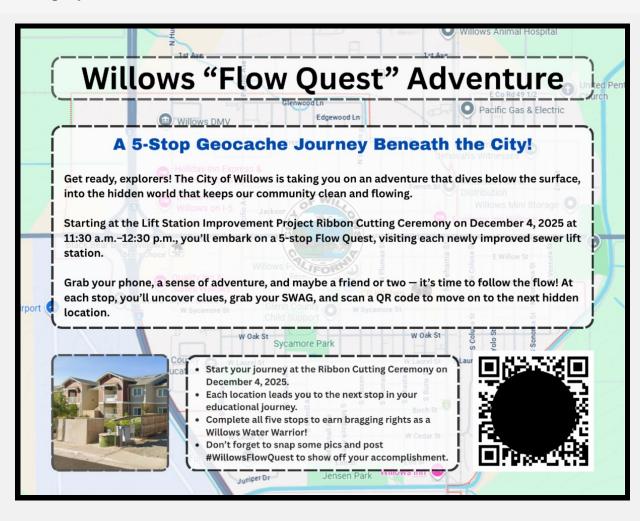
- Location: Sycamore Street Lift Station (@Sycamore and Villa Streets)
- Date: Thursday, December 4, 2025
- Time: 11:30 AM

"Flow Quest": A Citywide Geocache Adventure!

Discover Willows' wastewater system like never before with *Flow Quest*, a citywide geocache adventure! Created to celebrate the upgrades to all five of the City's lift stations, *Flow Quest* invites residents and visitors to explore Willows using GPS clues to find hidden geocache swag located near each improved sewage lift station.

Participants begin their journey at the Sycamore Lift Station Improvement Project Grand Opening on December 4, 2025. Each geocache features a QR code that guides participants to the next site, along with a fun fact about the lift station's recent improvements. Along the way, adventurers can also collect exclusive *Flow Quest Swag* available at each stop.

Once all five locations have been discovered, scan the QR code or stop by City Hall to receive an official Completion Certificate — a great keepsake for participants of all ages! It'll be a fun, educational, and family-friendly way to learn about the essential systems that keep Willows flowing smoothly. Join the City on December 4 to learn more about its sewage system!



You're invited to the

LIFT STATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Ribbon Cutting
CEREMONY



SYCAMORE STREET LIFT STATION

SYCAMORE ST, WEST OF VILLA

DECEMBER 4 AT 11:30AM

Event Program:

- Remarks by Mayor Hutson
- Remarks by City Engineer John Wanger
- SCADA System Demonstration
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
- Light refreshments will be served.
- Check out the "Flow Quest" Geocache Adventure!



City Council Action Roundup

October 14 and October 28 City Council Meetings

October 14, 2025 Council Meeting

- Approved the Administrative Analyst Job Classification and salary schedule.
- Approved the amended Conditions of Approval (COA) for the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) 25-01 for Cali Love LLC.

- Appointed Michael McNeil to the Willows Planning Commission for the term ending December 31, 2027.
- Adopted Ordinance 766-2025 entitled "AN ORDINACE OF THE WILLOWS CITY COUNCIL GRANTING THE REZONE TO AMEND THE ZONING FROM CENTRAL COMMERCIAL (CC) TO MULTIPLE RESIDENCE-PROFESSIONAL OFFICE (RP) AND A GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT TO AMEND THE LAND USE DESIGNATION FROM GENERAL COMMERCIAL (GC) TO OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL (OP) FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 103 SOUTH PLUMAS STREET, ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBER 002-113-001.
- Authorized the City Manager to amend the budget for \$15,000 for Fiscal Year 2025-26 to fund ongoing human resource consulting services with Regional Government Services (RGS).

October 28, 2025 City Council Meeting

- Adopted Resolution 36-2025 (Attachment 1), authorizing the City Manager or her designee to sign and accept \$8,000 of grant funding through CAL FIRE's Volunteer Fire Capacity Program Grant.
- Conducted a public hearing to receive public comment on Unmet Transit Needs in Glenn County.
- Conducted a public hearing to accept public protest regarding the sale of exempt surplus land, Assessor Parcel Numbers (APN) 002-101-009, 002-101-006, and 003-113-006 in accordance with State law, and directed staff to proceed with the sale of three properties.
- Approved changing the Mayor and Vice-Mayor election cycle and committee
 appointments from annually to every two years starting with December 2025
 whereby the current Mayor and Vice-Mayor would serve an additional year in
 2026 and thereby complete a two-year term, and future elections and
 appointments would occur in December of even numbered years (e.g., 2026, 2028,
 2030).



Proclamation:
Small Business Saturday
Presented to Jamie Millen,
Willows Chamber of Commerce



Proclamation: Veterans Day
Presented to Carol Lemenager,
VFW Auxiliary 1770

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Museum Grand Reopening & Christmas Open House

Join the Willows Museum Board of Directors in celebrating the Grand Reopening of the Willows Museum and Annual Christmas Open House!

The event begins at 5:30 PM with light refreshments. Guests can explore local history, enjoy the seasonal atmosphere, and reconnect with the stories that shaped the City of Willows. Beginning at 6:00 PM, the celebration continues with live music and community singing. Bring family, friends, and neighbors to help kick off the holidays and welcome a new chapter for the Willows Museum. The Board of Directors look forward to celebrating with you!

Event Details

Location: 336 West Walnut StreetDate: Thursday, December 11, 2025

• Time: 5:30 PM

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES

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

Code Enforcement Division

Property Cleanup Highlights Code Enforcement Progress

The City of Willows continues to work with property owners to maintain safe, attractive, and well-kept neighborhoods throughout the community. Recent code enforcement efforts have resulted in several successful property abatements and continued progress on others.

On South Plumas Street, the removal of garbage, discarded materials, and debris after cooperative efforts between the property owner and the City's Code Enforcement Officer resulted in successful abatement and cleanup. Another property on the same street remains under active enforcement due to ongoing violations related to trash accumulation and unpermitted business activity. City staff continue to work with the property owner to resolve the matter.

On Jefferson Street, a property owner took corrective action and cleaned up their property after city staff responded to a neighborhood complaint of yard debris and garbage accumulation. Similarly, a property on North Crawford Avenue was recently brought into compliance after the removal of excessive debris and the establishment of regular garbage service.

The City appreciates the cooperation of residents who have worked to address violations and keep Willows clean, safe, and welcoming. Ongoing enforcement ensures that all properties contribute to the health, safety, and appearance of the community.

Engineering

Sewer Main Replacement Project Nears Completion

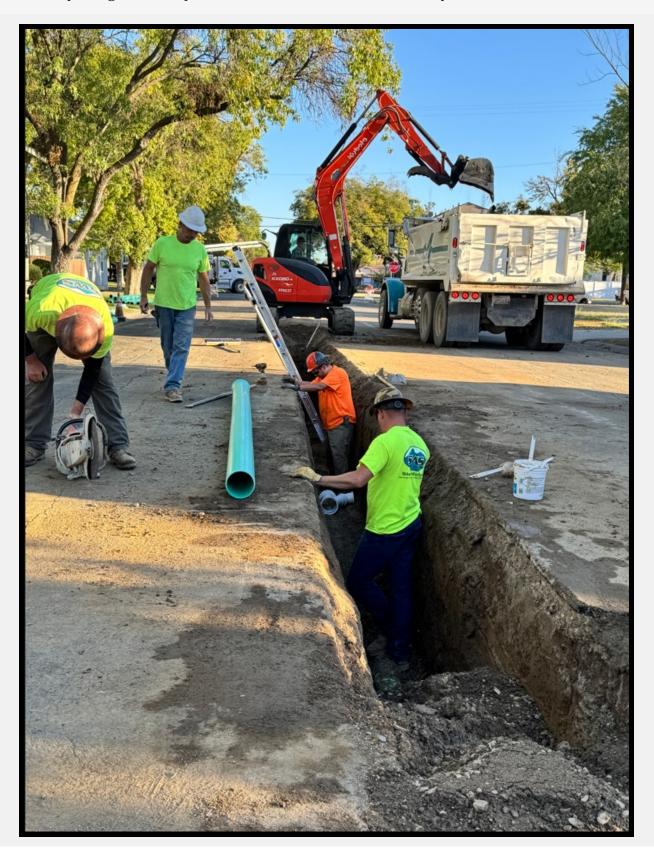
The City of Willows is pleased to share that the sewer main replacement project is now in its final phase, with crews completing work in the alley located west of Northern Valley Indian Health (NVIH). This follows the successful replacement of sewer mains along Yolo Street between Oak and Sycamore Streets, as well as Sacramento Street from the GCID canal to Sycamore Street.

This important infrastructure project replaces approximately 2,710 linear feet of deteriorated clay sewer pipe, much of which dates back nearly 100 years. Upgrading these aging sections with new PVC pipe will improve flow, reduce maintenance needs, and prevent costly failures for years to come.

The project is funded through Sewer Bond Funds, with a total investment of \$1.1 million dedicated to modernizing critical components of the City's wastewater system.

These upgrades are part of a broader effort to ensure Willows' underground infrastructure remains reliable and efficient well into the future.

The City appreciates the community's patience during construction and looks forward to completing this final phase before the end of the calendar year.



Sewer Lift Station Rehabilitation Project Completed!

The City of Willows has successfully completed a major rehabilitation project to upgrade

all five of its wastewater lift stations. These critical facilities move wastewater from lower areas to higher points in the system, ensuring safe and efficient transport to the treatment plant.

The \$1.69 million Sewer Bond Fund project modernized the City's wastewater infrastructure, extending the life of equipment that had been in service for more than 30 years. The upgrades include new pumps, guiderails, control systems, fall protection, and remote monitoring technology that allows City staff to respond more quickly and efficiently to system conditions. These improvements ensure reliable wastewater service for residents and businesses while enhancing worker safety and reducing environmental risks.

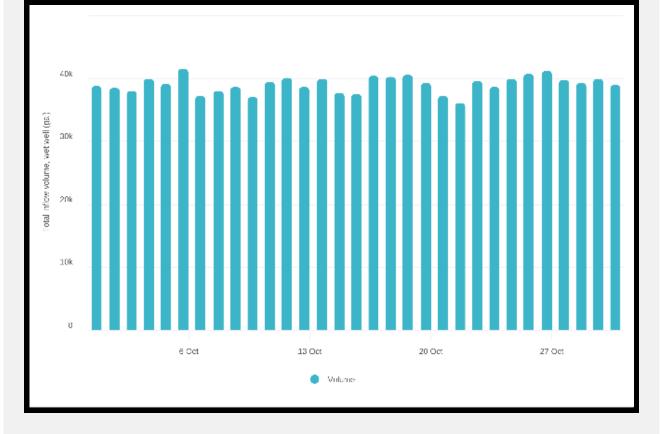
This investment represents another important step in maintaining the long-term health and performance of Willows' wastewater system, ensuring dependable service and environmental protection for decades to come.



Completed Cherry Street Lift Station

Lift Station Monitoring

The new Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system tracks total inflow volume at each lift station in real time and displays it in clear graphs, giving the city far more accurate data on how much wastewater is moving through the system each day. Sudden spikes or unusual increases in these volume trends can indicate water intrusion or inflow and infiltration (I&I), allowing staff to quickly pinpoint problems and respond much more effectively than with the old, less precise monitoring system.



Graph showing flow of water at Cherry Street Lift Station

Planning Division

Upcoming Community Workshop: Zoning Code Update

The City of Willows invites residents, business owners, and community members to participate in an upcoming public workshop focused on updates to Chapter 18 of the Willows Municipal Code, which includes zoning and land use regulations.



In this interactive and easy to follow workshop, city staff and planning consultants will use poster boards to display and explain portions of the existing Code alongside suggested updates, helping participants to understand potential changes and improvements. Attendees will have the opportunity to share their ideas and feedback directly through sticky notes and comment cards in a hands-on and collaborative experience.

The goal of the update is to modernize Chapter 18, making it clearer, more consistent, and easier to use for residents, property owners, and developers alike. Community input will play an important role in shaping the final recommendations. Everyone is encouraged to attend and take part in this important discussion about the future of

zoning and development in Willows.

Event Details

• Location: Ark Center, 222 North Butte Street

• Date: Thursday, December 4, 2025

• Time: 5:30 PM

Community Meeting: CDBG Application

On Wednesday, November 19, the City of Willows hosted a public meeting to gather community input for a potential Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application. The meeting was held at The Ark, where residents joined City staff to discuss proposed funding for sidewalk rehabilitation and improvement projects throughout the City of Willows.

The goal of the CDBG application is to secure funding to enhance pedestrian safety, accessibility, and overall walkability—ensuring that sidewalks better serve residents of all ages and abilities. The meeting generated meaningful participation, with attendees offering valuable feedback on the areas most in need of sidewalk repair and/or upgrades. The input will play an important role in shaping the City's final application and prioritizing future improvements.

The City of Willows appreciates the strong community engagement and thanks residents for contributing their ideas and perspectives to improve infrastructure and accessibility in the city's neighborhoods.

Chevron Advances Plans for Major Fueling Station Upgrade

The City of Willows is pleased to share that Chevron has advanced its plans for a full commercial fueling and service center at 1481 South Tehama Street (@Road 57). The detailed project plans show a major expansion that will modernize the existing site and bring new fueling, electric charging, and truck service amenities to the Willows community.

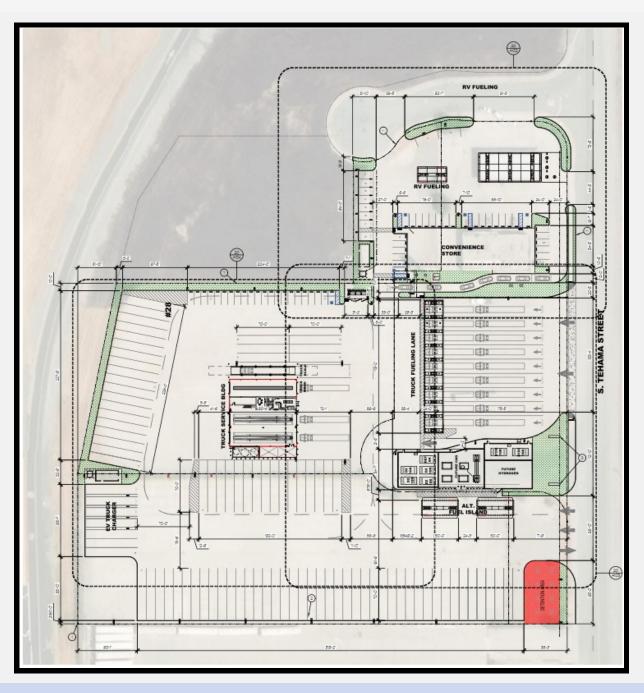
The updated design focuses on improving access for both travelers and the trucking industry while also preparing for the future of clean energy.

Key upgrades include:

- A large commercial fueling area with ten diesel lanes designed to better serve freight and long-haul traffic.
- Six electric charging stations for heavy-duty trucks and eight for passenger vehicles, offering options for cleaner transportation.
- A reconfigured area with two multi-product fueling pumps and canopy for recreational vehicles.

- Dedicated areas for future hydrogen and compressed natural gas fueling, including fully designed storage and infrastructure zones.
- A new truck service center with an office, customer waiting area, two service pits, and a truck wash to support the trucking community.
- A truck scale to improve freight operations and efficiency.
- An expanded 7,600-square-foot convenience store that will include space for a fast-food restaurant with drive-thru service, bringing additional dining options for residents and travelers.
- Site improvements that include new drainage systems, a stormwater retention basin, and drought-tolerant landscaping to enhance sustainability and appearance.

The City views this project as a major investment that strengthens Willows' position along the I-5 and Highway 99 corridor.



Public Works Division

City of Willows Fall Leaf Pickup Program is Underway!

The City of Willows began its Annual Fall Leaf Pickup Program on Monday, November 3. The Public Works crew is already working to keep streets clean and neighborhoods looking great for the season.

Leaves only, please! Please place leaves along the curb—no branches, wood, or debris. Nonleaf materials can damage equipment and delay collection. Please also keep gutters clear. Avoid blocking the flow of water in gutters or



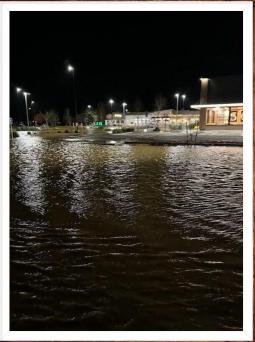
storm drains. Place leaves close to the curb but allow water to pass freely. Your cooperation helps keep Willows clean, colorful, and safe during the rainy season. Thank you to everyone for doing their part to make this year's leaf pickup program run smoothly and successfully!

Help Prevent Flooding During Winter Weather

As the rainy season gets underway, the City of Willows encourages all residents to take a few simple steps to help prevent localized flooding and keep the community safe. The Public Works crews work hard to maintain drainage systems; however, the public's assistance makes a huge difference and goes a long way to helping with preventative measures.

Helpful Tips:

- **Keep gutters and storm drains clear.**Remove leaves, branches, and debris from curbs and drains near your home. This allows water to flow freely and helps prevent street flooding.
- **Dispose of yard waste properly.** Do not place leaves or yard debris in the street after leaf pickup dates have passed. Instead, use green waste bins or compost them when possible.
- **Check around your property.** Make sure drainage swales, ditches, and rain gutters are clean and functioning properly before storms arrive.



- **Secure outdoor items.** Move trash cans, planters, and loose materials away from curbs to avoid blockages.
- **Drive with caution.** Never drive through standing water and report flooded streets or clogged drains to the <u>City's Public Works Division</u>.

Working together, we can keep Willows' streets clear and neighborhoods protected throughout the rainy season. Thank you for doing your part to keep the city safe and resilient.

Installation of New Street Name Signs

The City of Willows is pleased to announce that new street name signs for the entire city have been purchased and the PW crew is starting to install them. Public Works has already completed installations on Wood Street. This project is part of the City's ongoing effort to improve safety, visibility, and the overall appearance of city streets.



The updated signs feature clearer lettering, higher reflectivity, and a fresh, uniform design that makes them easier to read day or night. These improvements will help emergency responders, residents, and visitors navigate more safely and efficiently, especially during nighttime or wet weather conditions. In addition to enhancing safety, the new signage will also provide neighborhoods with a cleaner, more polished look. Over the next several months, Public Works will replace all street name signs throughout the city.

Recreation Division

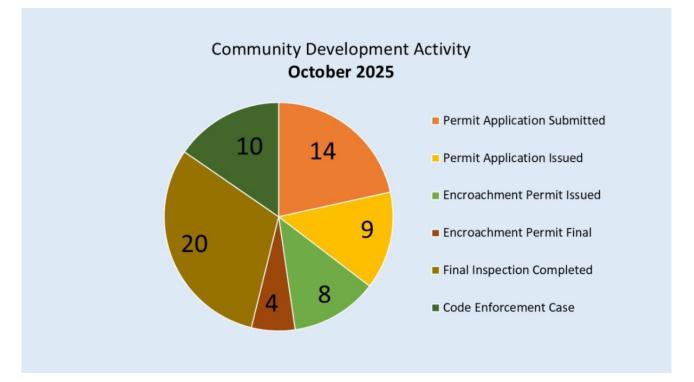
Fall Soccer wraps up!

The youth soccer fall season has officially come to a close, marking another successful year for this popular community program. More than 100 young athletes, ages 4 to 14, participated in the season, which kicked off



in late September and continued through early November.

The Recreation Division extends its sincere appreciation to the dedicated parents, coaches, and volunteers who make this program possible. Their time, encouragement, and enthusiasm help create a positive and memorable experience for all participants. Thank you to everyone who contributed to a great soccer season!





FINANCE

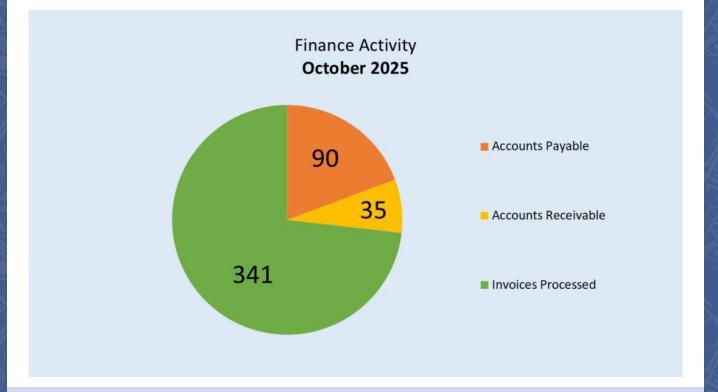
Finance Department Transition

Finance Director Joanne Moore resigned from her position on October 27. Her last day with the City was Friday, November 21. While Joanne will no longer be a City employee, she will continue to contract with the city (~ eight hours per week) until the Finance Director position is filled.

Meanwhile, the City is currently engaged in active recruitment for the position. First

review of applications was November 17 and a handful of qualified applications were received. Interviews will take place in early December.

We wish Joanne the best of luck and congratulations on her new position as Assistant City Manager for her hometown of Colusa!



FIREFire Response, Prevention & Emergency Medical Services

WFD Events

WFD Hosts Annual Pancake Breakfast

The Willows Fire Department held its annual <u>Pancake Breakfast</u> on October 11, 2025, serving approximately 300



community members. The event was a great success, bringing residents together to enjoy a warm meal while supporting an important cause.

All proceeds from the breakfast help fund the department's public education programs, which provide valuable fire safety information and outreach throughout the community. The WFD extends its thanks to everyone who attended and contributed to this year's event!

Fire Prevention Week Outreach

During Fire Prevention Week, October 1–10, Willows Fire Department crews visited multiple local schools to deliver important safety presentations. Students at two preschools, Walden Academy, and Murdock



Elementary learned about battery and electronic safety, as well as the importance of having and practicing home evacuation plans.

The WFD continues to prioritize community education and thanks the schools for welcoming firefighters into their classrooms to support keeping Willows safe!

Other Recent WFD Events

- October 7: Chief Monck and the Willows Fire Department participated in National Night Out. WFD brought three apparatus to the event and cooked burgers and hot dogs for the community.
- October 17: WFD provided football standby at the WHS homecoming game and also took part in the homecoming parade.
- October 29: WFD participated in the Murdock Fall Festival, engaging with students and families.
- October 30: WFD hosted the Glenn County RCD regional meeting. The meeting, originally planned at the refuge, was relocated due to the federal government shutdown, and WFD provided space for more than 40 attendees.
- October 31: WFD provided standby for the Football game and also participated in Treat Street, celebrating Halloween with the community.



Updates

Glenn County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Study Underway

Following the closure of Glenn Medical Emergency, the Cities of Willows and Orland, together with Glenn County, have launched a joint EMS Study to evaluate the countywide emergency medical services system. The study will assess current strengths, identify gaps, and recommend solutions to ensure EMS services remain fiscally sustainable, operationally feasible, and capable of providing timely, effective emergency response. Stay tuned for an update on the study's results and recommendations!

Impact Fee Study Update

The Willows Fire Department and surrounding fire jurisdictions have initiated hiring a consultant to conduct an Impact Fee Study* for all fire districts in Glenn County. The study will be funded through the Glenn County Fire Coordinator Grant, reducing the financial impact on participating agencies. The total cost to the seven participating fire districts is \$7,000. The City and WFD appreciate the collaborative efforts underway to strengthen public safety services throughout Glenn County.

*What is an impact Fee Study? It's a formal analysis that determines how much new development should pay to help fund the public facilities it will need. In this case, the study will determine how much new development should pay to support fire and emergency medical services throughout Glenn County.

Major Incidents

Unresponsive Patient

On October 18, WFD was dispatched to an unresponsive male with CPR in progress. WFD arrived on the scene within two minutes and found an unresponsive male with no pulse and agonal respirations. WFD Engineer Fuentes initiated lifesaving efforts including CPR, and artificial respirations with a bag valve mask. The Automated External Defibrillator (AED) was applied and subsequently used to deliver three defibrillations (e.g., shocks). The Lucas device was also applied. Enloe paramedics arrived, and the patient regained a pulse. The patient was transported code three to Enloe Medical Center with two Willows Fire Riders. The Patient is currently discharged from the hospital and is awake, alert and has no cognitive deficits. This is a great example of what professional staffing, fast response times and available ALS care can provide the community. Huge accolades to Engineer Fuentes and the crew for providing exceptional care to this patient and the community.

Active Shooter Threat

On October 31, WFD was requested to assist with GCSO Glenn County Probation, CHP, and Glenn County DA investigators in response to an active shooter threat at Willows Intermediate School. At 0400, WFD participated in a team briefing. Shortly thereafter, the department deployed its drone and assisted with incident command, planning and contingency in coordination with the Glenn County Sheriff's Office. Fortunately, the incident turned out to be uneventful.

Vegetation Fire

On November 2, WFD responded to County Road 49 for a reported vegetation fire. Units found approximately two acres burning and initiated fire attack. The fire was stopped after approximately three acres had burned. The Fire was investigated and determined to be accidental in nature.

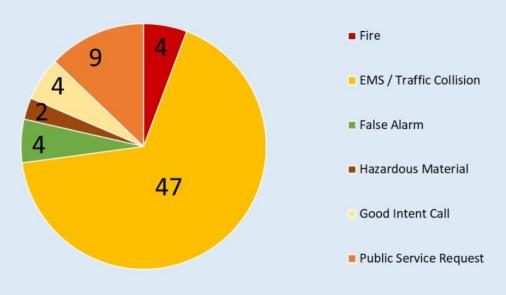




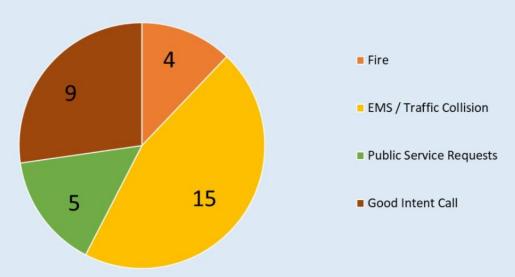




Willows Fire Department Activity
October 2025





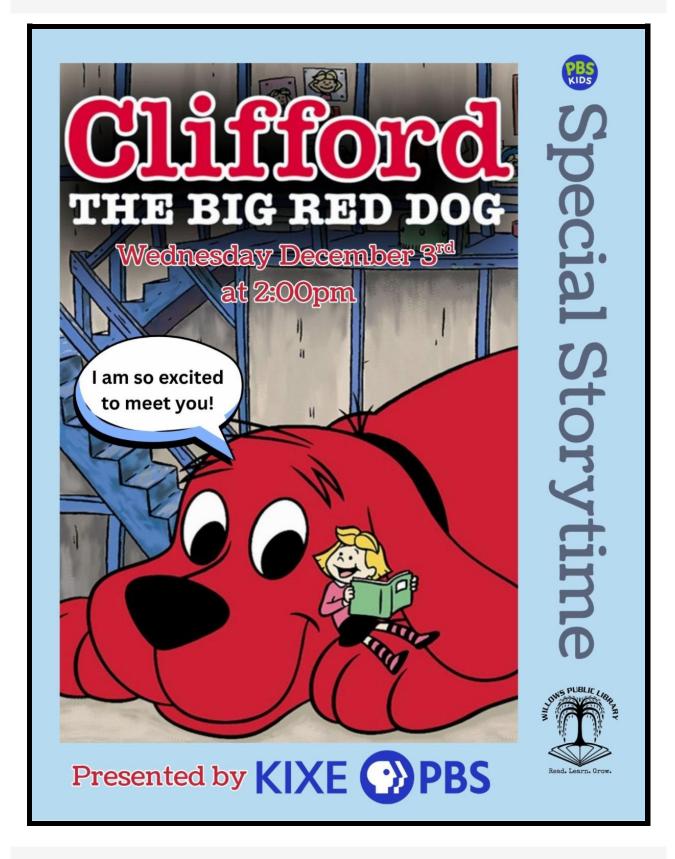


LIBRARY

Special Upcoming Event!

KIXE PBS Storytime with Clifford the Big Red Dog

The Willows Public Library is excited to host KIXE PBS and Clifford the Big Red Dog for a special storytime on <u>Wednesday</u>, <u>December 3</u>, <u>at 2:00 PM</u>. Families are invited to join us for stories, fun, and a memorable visit from everyone's favorite big red dog!



Library News

Upcoming Holiday Library Closures

Please note the following upcoming library closures:

- Thursday, November 27 Closed for Thanksgiving
- Friday, November 28 Closed for Thanksgiving holiday

Thank you for your understanding, and we look forward to serving the community during regular library hours.

Upcoming Library Board Meeting

The next Willows Library Board meeting is scheduled for <u>Thursday</u>, <u>December 11</u>, <u>at</u> <u>11:00 AM</u> in the Eubanks Room. Community members are welcome to attend.

Willows Public Library Facebook Page Restored

The Willows Public Library is pleased to share that its original <u>Facebook</u> page has been fully restored and is accessible once again. Thank you to everyone who followed our temporary page during the outage. Staff will continue posting all library news, events, and updates on the primary page moving forward. The library appreciates the community's patience and support!

Library Receives Grant Funding and Special Gift

The Willows Public Library is proud to announce that it has been awarded a Pilcrow Foundation grant, which will support the purchase of \$600 in new children's literature in partnership with the Friends of the Library. This funding will help expand and refresh the library's youth collection for young readers and families.

In addition, the library also received a generous \$10,000 gift from the Carnegie Corporation in honor of its 250th anniversary and the organization's ongoing commitment to libraries and the communities they serve. This contribution will provide meaningful support for future library services and programs.

The library extends its gratitude to both organizations for their continued investment in the Willows community.

Past Events

Library Hosts Special Storytime

In early October, the library

welcomed local 1st and 2nd grade classes for a special large-group storytime.
Students enjoyed stories, activities, and a fun visit designed to encourage reading and support early literacy.



National Wildlife Refuge Week

On October 14, the City library partnered with Administration to support National Wildlife Refuge Week. This collaborative effort provided educational opportunities and engaging activities for attendees of all ages.



Spooktacular Events at the Library

The library celebrated the season with a series of spooky activities, including themed crafts, a special Storytime, pumpkin painting, and a fun costume day for children. Young readers enjoyed engaging stories, creative projects, and the chance to show off their costumes, making it a festive and memorable week at the library.

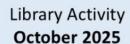






November Calendar







Door Count: 703

Public Computer Use: 36





New Library Card: 11

Items Added to Collection: 130





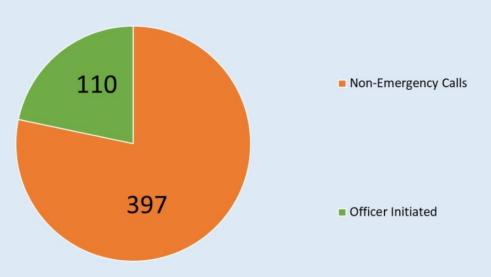
Program Participants: 78

Checkouts: 593 Renewals: 79

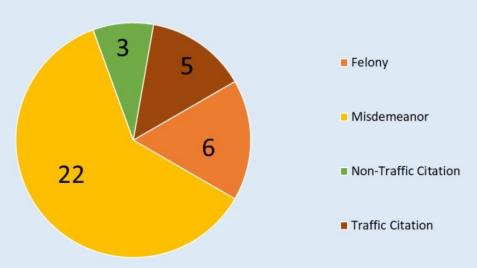


SHERIFF

Sheriff Department Activity – Calls for Service October 2025



Sheriff Department Activity – Arrests & Citations October 2025



City Of Willows

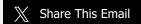
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