

Happy Easter!

Willows Monthly - April 2024



Top Stories

- Council approves placing 1.5% sales tax measure on November 2024 ballot!
- Annual Paving Project Gets Underway
- New hire - Finance & HR Specialist!
- Annual Weed Abatement Activities Get Started
- The Cookie Monster is coming to town - TODAY!

Upcoming Meetings

City Council

- **April 23** - Regular Meeting @ 6:00 PM
- **May 14** - Regular Meeting @ 6:00 PM

Planning Commission

- **April 25** - Regular Meeting @ 6:00 PM

ADMINISTRATION General Operations, City Clerk's Office & Economic Development

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 12, 2024

Council Approves Placing 1.5% Sales Tax Measure on November 2024 Ballot

(Willows, CA) - On Tuesday, April 9, 2024, the Willows City Council approved placing a 1.5% sales tax on the November 2024 ballot. After months of deliberation regarding the City's fiscal crisis, the ballot measure sailed through to approval with a 4-1 vote and little fanfare.

"It's the right thing to do. Every other jurisdiction in the region has done the same thing. It's the only way to ensure the future of our core city services – police, fire and public works," commented Mayor Gary Hansen.

For years, City revenues have barely kept pace with expenditures as staffing levels have plummeted, roads and infrastructure have declined, failing Fire apparatus and equipment present a public health and safety risk, Public Works vehicles scarcely comply with State mandates, and quality of life services such as recreation and the library operate on shoestring budgets.

When asked to comment, Vice-Mayor Evan Hutson said, "My goal is for this and future city councils to pave a path forward for a better Willows for our neighbors, families, and youth. This measure, along with an action plan and open forum for all citizens to participate in, provides that opportunity."

In Fiscal Year 2022-23, the Willows City Council voted to reinstate previously vacated

positions that were not filled due to the City's budgetary problems bringing the City back from 12 full-time employees to minimum staffing levels of 18 full-time employees. In Fiscal Year 2023-24, the City's law enforcement contract with the Glenn County Sheriff's Office jumped by nearly \$400,000 in one year. These additional expenses require approximately \$820,000 of General Fund Reserves per year.

"The City needs a stable revenue source for the needs of the people. For example, the City swimming pool repairs were not for a lack of desire, but a lack of funding," commented Councilmember Rick Thomas.

By the end of Fiscal Year 2024-25 and in the absence of new revenue, the City anticipates that approximately \$50,000 will remain in the General Fund Reserve or less than 1% of the total General Fund.

"It's crucial to the City's future to fix its ongoing deficit and rebuild General Fund Reserves. And there is no way to do that in the next 15 months without a sales tax measure," stated Marti Brown, City Manager.

###

Local News Coverage:

- [Chico Action News Now](#)
- [KRCR - ABC 7](#)

CITY COUNCIL ROUNDUP:

Council Actions for March 26 and April 9, 2024 City Council Meetings

March 26 Council Meeting

- Approved a letter of support in favor of Sierra Nevada Cheese Company's grant application for their anaerobic digestion project.
- Approved the continued use of city funds to cover the cost of fees from the Glenn Groundwater Authority on properties in the City of Willows' city limits.

April 9 Council Meeting

- Approved an allocation of \$142,029 and authorized Inframark to repair the wastewater treatment plant's bar screen, electrical and slide gate.
- Authorized the City Manager to execute an agreement with Pavement Coatings Company in the amount of \$633,642 for the FY22-23 annual pavement and construction project as well as a contract amendment with Coastland Civil Engineering for \$105,550 to provide construction management and inspection services for the project.

- Accepted the improvements associated with replacement of three HVAC units in the Willows Public Library and authorized the filing of the project's notice of completion.
- Approved the actions taken by city staff and retroactively authorized the emergency repairs on Road 57.
- Approved the placement of a 1.5% sales tax measure on the November 5, 2024 Presidential election ballot.
- Approved the education action plan regarding the City's finances and authorized the City Manager to spend up to \$10,000 on related plan materials.
- Authorized the City Manager to execute an agreement with Ria Collaboratories for an amount not to exceed \$4,000 to facilitate a Council Goal and Priority Setting Workshop.



Kiwanis Club 100th Anniversary

At the March 26, 2024 City Council Meeting, Mayor Gary Hansen presented a proclamation to the Kiwanis Club recognizing their 100 years of service to the Willows community.



National Vietnam War Veterans Day Recognition

Mayor Hansen also presented a proclamation to representatives of VFW Post 1770 recognizing National Vietnam War Veterans Day on March 29, 2024.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES

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

Engineering Division

Annual Paving Project - Call for Bids

As part of the City's ongoing efforts to improve paving conditions, construction

documents were circulated and bids solicited for paving treatment. The project will be funded by SB-1 and the Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP). It includes paving treatment of North Humboldt Street between Wood and Sycamore Streets; Sycamore Street between North Humboldt Street and Villa Avenue; and Crawford Avenue between Sycamore and Laurel Streets. The project also includes replacement of non-conforming pedestrian ramps on these streets.

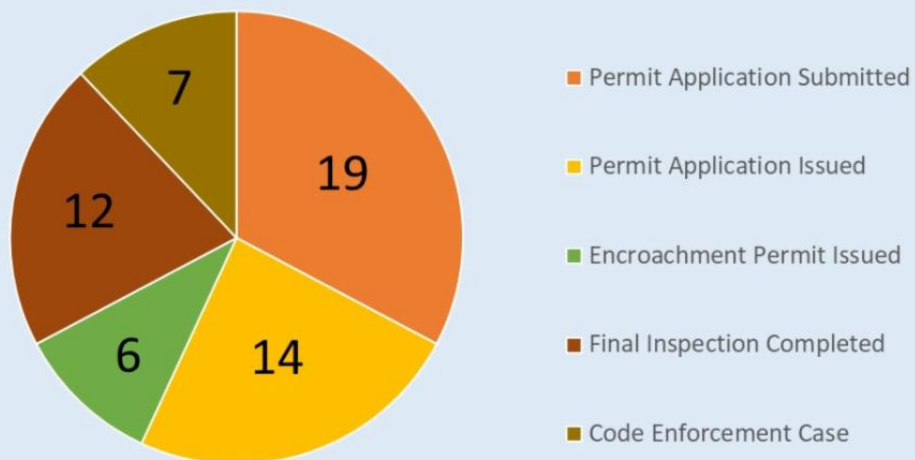


Planning Division

Willows Municipal Code Fun Fact

Sign Law - Chapter 18.125.050 - No sign shall be constructed, maintained, displayed, or altered within the city except pursuant to a sign permit obtained as provided in this chapter, unless the sign is specifically exempted from permit requirements pursuant to WMC 18.125.040. All signs required by this chapter to obtain a permit shall either be approved through WMC 18.125.060, Administrative Review, or by the Planning Commission.

Community Development Activity
March 2024



Public Works Division

Grading Alleys

Over the past several weeks, Public Works crews have been focusing on grading alleys throughout the city helping to prevent water accumulation, promote sewer line protection, and allow easy access to residents and public agencies.



Sidewalk Closure

A portion of the sidewalk north of Crazy Taco, on the west side of Tehama Street between Oak and Sycamore Streets is closed due to a safety issue and the structural instability of an adjacent building. When traveling in the area, please use alternate pedestrian routes. The City is working to demolish the building as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for your patience with this matter.

Road 57 Sinkhole

On Wednesday March 20, 2024, a sink hole was discovered at Road 57 immediately east of the intersection with Highway 99. Public Works immediately closed the one affected lane of Road 57 and contacted Walberg Inc. Deterioration of the metal culvert pipe under the road caused the sinkhole. Walberg Inc. was able to complete the removal and replacement of the culvert pipe, backfill and compact base and open the road by Friday, March 22. The metal pipe was replaced with a High-Density Polyethylene pipe, which is resistant to corrosion.



Public Works Division Activity
March 2024



Tree Trimming - 4



Call Requests - Sewage Line Issues - 3



Poured 6.5 tons of cold patch
to fill potholes.



New USA Markings - 37

FINANCE

Welcome to the City's new Finance & HR Specialist!

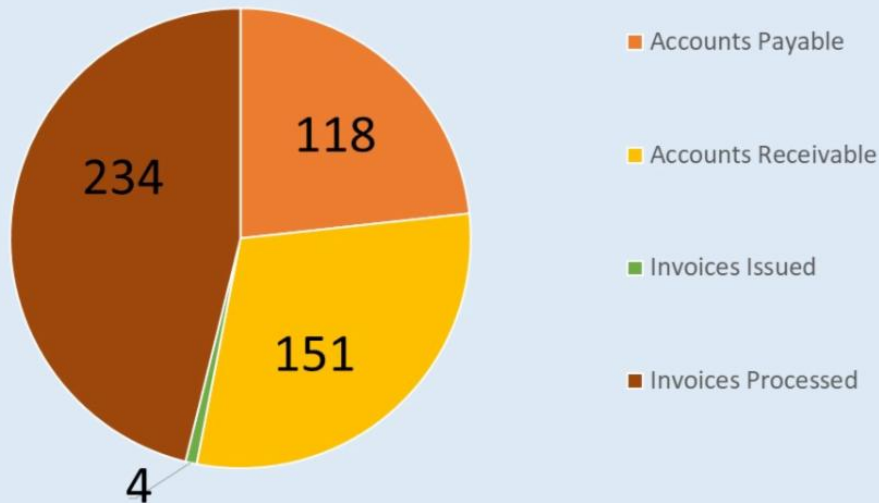
The City is excited to announce the hiring of Robin Hazlett, the new Finance & Human Resources Specialist. Robin is a native of Glenn County and graduate of Orland High School. She has 16 years of experience in book keeping and accounting, as well as Human Resources. In her free time, Robin enjoys traveling, especially to the beach and redwoods, as well as spending time with family and friends.



FY 2022-23 Audit

The City's Auditor, Smith & Newell, will present the FY 2022-23 audit to the City Council at the May 14 Council meeting.

Finance Activity March 2024

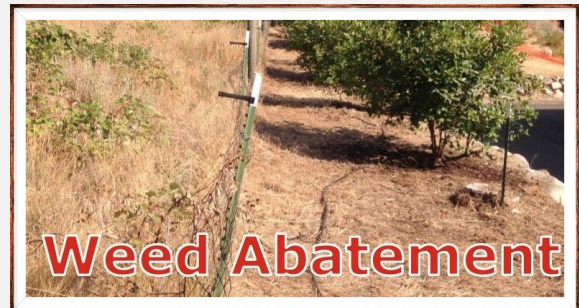


FIRE

Fire Response, Prevention & Emergency Medical Services

2024 Weed Abatement Season

The Willows Fire Department's Annual Hazardous Fuels Reduction Program has started!



Every spring, the Willows Fire Department surveys the City for weed abatement

problem areas and issues abatement notices for weeds, brush, rubbish, and other debris that could pose a fire hazard as the declared Fire Season quickly arrives. Initial surveys are very liberal, as inspectors must look at properties through proactive lens. If a property is not marked in the initial survey and notices are not sent, the City will not be able to act should the property pose a hazard later in the abatement process.

The Hazardous Fuels Reduction Program has been a vital part of the City of Willows fire prevention strategy for more than 40 years resulting in lower homeowner insurance costs for Willows residents. Due to limited Fire Department staffing, it is imperative that the department focus on wildfire prevention in an effort to safeguard the lives and property of the Citizens and Visitors of Willows. For years 2023, 2024 and 2025, The Hazardous Fuels Reduction Program is 100% grant funded by CAL FIRE.

Major Incidents

- Willows Fire Department (WFD) responded with two apparatus to a multifamily

structure fire in Orland that impacted an eight unit apartment building. Willows firefighters assisted with fire attack and search. Willows Firefighters successfully rescued a Labrador dog from the primary fire unit.

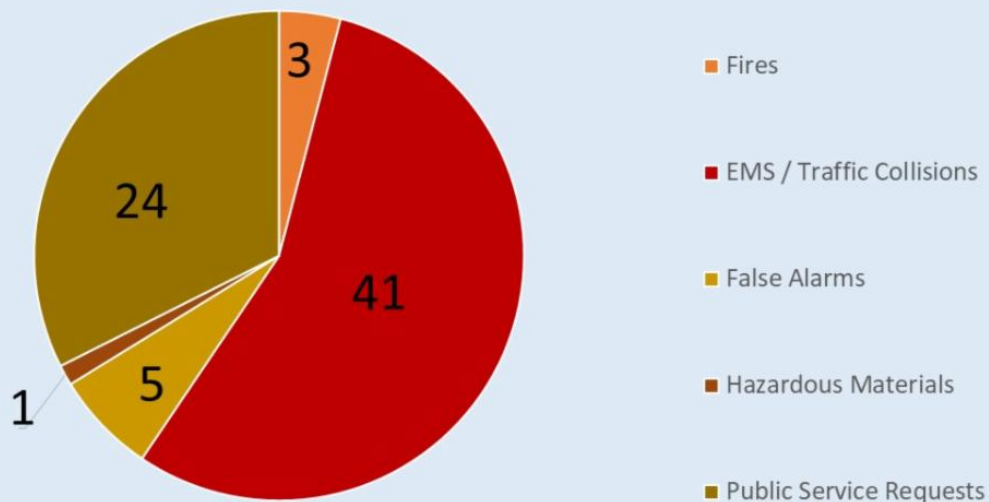
- WFD responded to a residential structure fire at Road 46 and Road SS on the edge of the Willows Rural Fire District. Units arrived to find a detached outbuilding fully involved beginning to extend into the primary home. Units made an aggressive attack and were able to maintain most of the damage to the exterior of the primary home.
- WFD responded to a residential structure fire in the 300 block of French Street. Units arrived to find smoke billowing from an attached lean to. Units knocked down the lean to and extinguished the fire and then checked the interior of the home and found minor damage. The majority of the home was unharmed and is still livable.

Maintenance

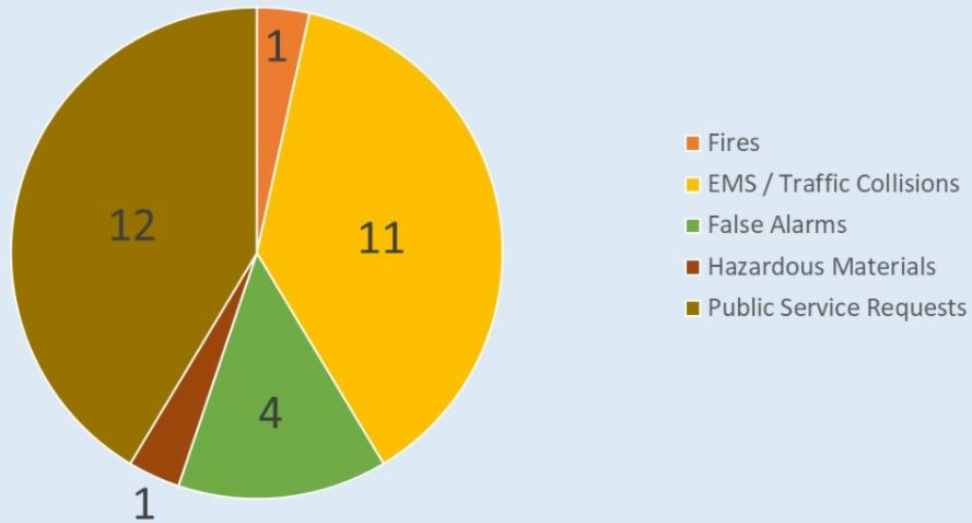
WFD staff completed the annual mandated pump testing that ensures Willows Fire Engines are able to pump water at their rated capacities. All apparatus passed the pump testing process. While Engine 2, the department's oldest apparatus passed, it struggled and it was not easy to successfully complete. Engine 2 is a Type 1 Fire Engine and needs to be replaced as soon as possible.

Annual Hose Testing Will begin in April. As part of this process, every fixture of fire hose equipment is inspected and pressure tested, washed, dried and rolled to be ready for use. This is also mandated testing that ensures the safety of both department members and the community.

Willows Fire Department Activity
March 2024



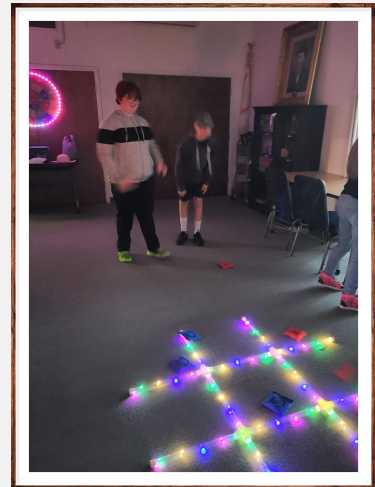
Willows Rural Fire Protection District Activity March 2024



LIBRARY

Teen Egg Hunt After Hours

The Willows Library's first ever "Teen Egg Hunt After Hours" was a big hit with glow in the dark activities and eggs. Thanks to all who participated and volunteer Chloe for helping to make it happen!



April Activities & Events

In addition to our weekly library storytime every Wednesday morning at 11:00 a.m., the Willows Library is excited to announce that there are a few extra special events coming up, including:

- The Cookie Monster, a Sesame Street guest, from KIXE on April 17,
- Families for Literacy Storytime on April 25 with free books to add to your home libraries, and
- a "Financial Literacy" Storytime on April 23 that will also include free materials.

Lastly, be sure to watch for the library entry at the Lamb Derby Parade in May! We will have some special treats for Willows Library fans!

Financial Literacy Month
**Storytime &
 Book Giveaway**



23

TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2024 AT 3 PM – 3:30 PM

Story & Book Giveaway

201 N Lassen St, Willows, CA, United States, California 95988



APRIL



2024

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|--------|
| Closed | 1-5 pm | 11-5 pm | 11-7 pm | 11-7 pm | 11-5 pm | Closed |
| 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| | | | STORY 11 AM STEM 3 PM | BLOCK PARTY 3 PM | | |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| | TEEN MOVIE 3 PM | STORY & GIVEAWAY 3 PM | STORY 11 AM | CRAFTER -NOON 4 PM | | |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| | GAME DAY 3 PM | | BIG BIRD STORY W/ KIXE 11 AM | FAMILY MOVIE 5 PM | | |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| | | STORY & GIVEAWAY 3 PM | STORY 11 AM | FFL 4 PM | | |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |



Follow us on Facebook or at willowspubliclibrary.org for the latest news and upcoming events.

Library Activity
March 2024



Door Count – 783



Public Computer Use – 106



New Library Card - 14



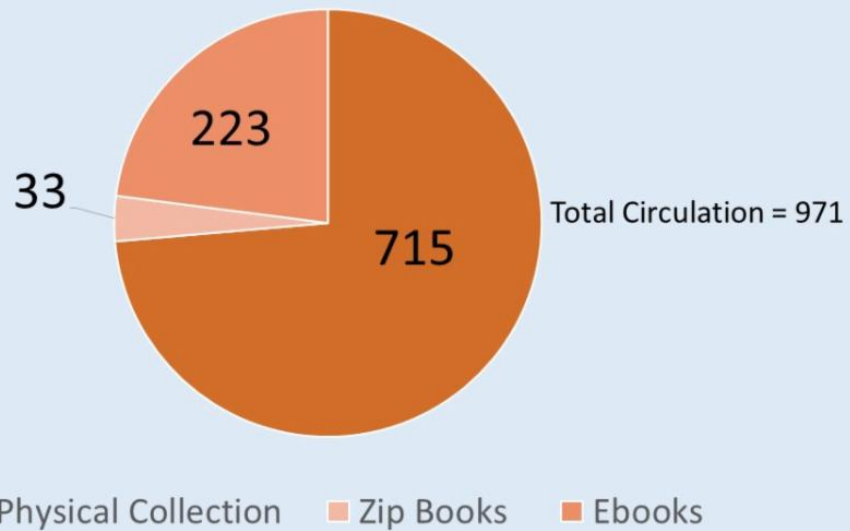
Items Added to Collection – 75



Program Participants – 205*

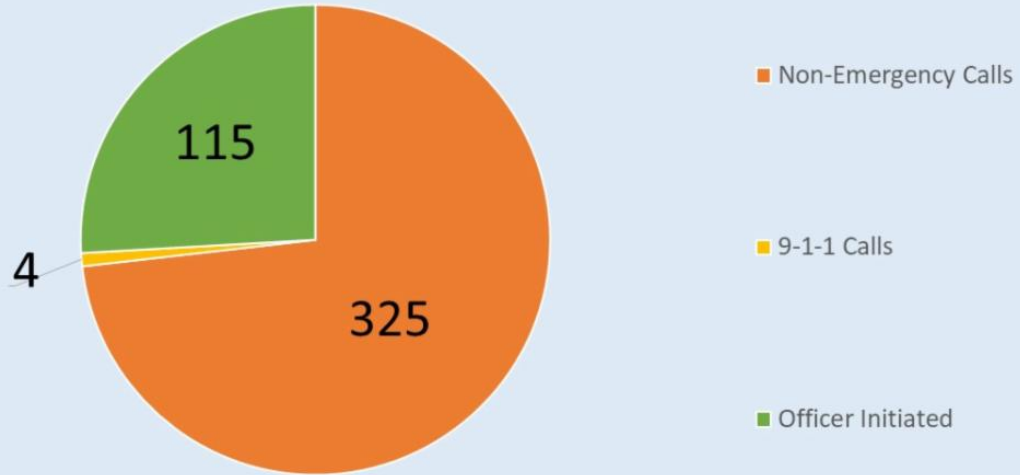
*Includes 14 programs and 42 Storytime
"To Go kits" distributed.

Circulation of Materials
March 2024

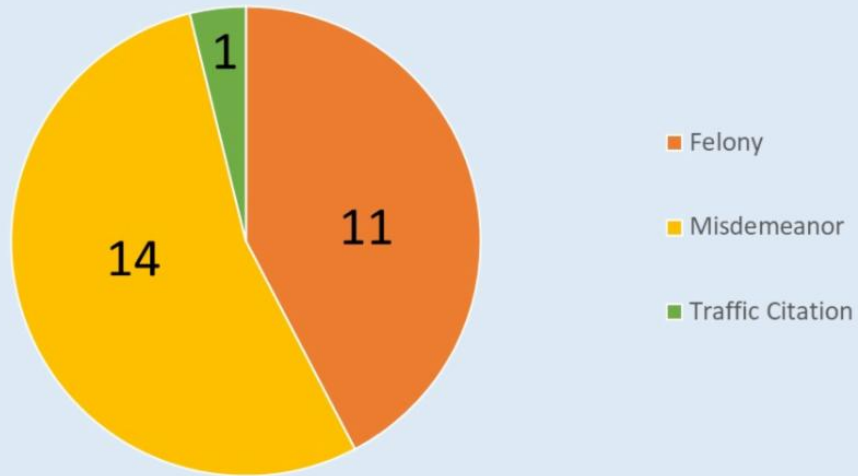


SHERIFF

Sheriff Department Activity – Calls for Service
March 2024



Sheriff Department Activity – Arrests & Citations
March 2024



City Of Willows

201 North Lassen Street
Willows, CA 95988
(530) 934-7041

Email Us





Share This Email



Share This Email



Share This Email

City of Willows | 201 North Lassen Street, City of Willows, CA 95988

[Unsubscribe mbrown@cityofwillows.org](mailto:mbrown@cityofwillows.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by info@cityofwillows.ccsend.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!