

## Willows Monthly Newsletter

### February 2026



#### **Top Stories:**

- 140th Birthday Celebration - a Tremendous Success!
- Learn More: Museum Bell Mystery
- Willows Secures \$255,000 for Cleanup Program
- Youth Basketball Season is Underway
- City Welcomes Finance Director, Joei Harrison
- Library's New Program Space Nearly Completed!

# Upcoming Meetings

## City Council

- **February 24** - Regular Meeting @ 6:00pm
- **March 10** - Regular Meeting @ 6:00pm

## Planning Commission

- **March 3** - Regular Meeting @ 6:00pm

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## ADMINISTRATION

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

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#### **140th Birthday Celebration - a Tremendous Success!**

On Friday, January 16, 2026, the City of Willows proudly celebrated its 140th birthday with a lively and well-attended community event at the Willows Civic Center. The evening was a tremendous success, bringing together residents, families, City leaders, and city employees to honor this historic milestone.

Excitement was evident from the start, as attendees eagerly lined up before the doors opened to be among the first to receive commemorative memorial coins and keepsake spoons. Guests enjoyed horse-drawn carriage rides, live string music, children's games, a photo booth, and curated historical displays highlighting Willows' rich history. Red88 provided delicious appetizers, and at 7:00 p.m., the Mayor and City Council joined the community for a champagne toast and birthday cake celebration of 140 years of history, resilience, and community pride.

The event was made possible by the generous support of Masters Gallery Foods, WM, Thunderhill Raceway Park, California Water Service, and Walmart. Thank you to the event sponsors and to everyone who joined the city in making this watershed event a memorable evening for all the attendees.



The Willows community gathered around for the lighting of the cake.



Sherri Richter holds the historic medallion she designed in 1976.



Fairchild Strings provided lively tunes.



The Horse-drawn carriage was a crowd favorite.



The Eubanks Room full of kids and kids-at-heart.

## Museum Bell Mystery

Thanks to the Willows Museum, the City's 140th birthday celebration featured beautiful and engaging historical displays, including photographs, jail rosters, assessment records, and other artifacts that brought Willows' past to life. One display in particular sparked curiosity and conversation: a large, dust-covered bell discovered in the basement of the Willows Museum. The bell is unlabeled and has no known provenance, adding to its intrigue.

As part of the celebration, the City invited the public to share their ideas about where the bell may have originated and how they knew about it. Two longtime Willows residents, Dan Worthington and Pamela Harris, may have helped uncover the mystery. Both indicated that the bell was previously located at the old fire station in the 100 block of North Butte Street and was used to call bucket brigades. While this information has not yet been confirmed, it has provided an exciting lead and renewed interest in the artifact.



The mystery remains—so we invite the community to visit the Willows Museum and see the bell for yourself. You just might recognize it and help piece together another chapter of Willows history.

## City Council Action Roundup

### January 13 and January 27 City Council Meetings

#### January 13

- Adopted Resolution 01-2026 authorizing the sale of City-owned real property located at 145 North Lassen Street, Willows.
- Adopted Resolution 02-2026 authorizing the City Manager to sign and accept \$8,350 of grant funding through CAL FIRE's Volunteer Firefighter Assistance (VFA) Grant.

- Re-appointed Sherry Brott to the Willows Planning Commission for the term ending December 31, 2029.
- Authorized the City Manager, or her designee, to execute an amendment to the city’s contract with VE Solutions for Wastewater Treatment Plant repairs.
- Adopted Ordinance 767-2026 adopting 2025 California Fire Code.
- Adopted Ordinance 768-2026 adopting 2025 California Building Code.
- Appointed Matt Busby to the Library Board of Trustees for the term ending June 20, 2028.
- Authorized the City Manager to execute a contract with HdL to prepare a Cannabis tax ordinance for the November 2026 ballot.
- Approved \$5,000 financial sponsorship of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial “Wall That Heals”.

### **January 27**

- Adopted Resolution 03-2026 reaffirming and memorializing the continued retiree Health Insurance contributions pursuant to the Public Employees’ Medical and Hospital Care Act (PEMHCA) for two City of Willows retirees and their spouses.
- Adopted Resolution 04-2026 accepting the improvements associated with the 2024-25 Sewer Rehabilitation Project and authorized the filing of the Project’s Notice of Completion.
- Adopted Resolution 05-2026 approving an application for funding and the execution of a grant agreement and any amendments thereto from the 2025 funding year of the State CDBG Program.
- Received an update on the outcome of the January 20, 2026, FMIOC meeting from Committee Members Vice Mayor Thomas and Councilmember Busby.
- Reviewed and discussed future meeting topics and membership options for the Finance & Measure I Oversight Committee (FMIOC).

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## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES**

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

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### **Code Enforcement Division**

#### **600 Block of North Butte Street**

This Code Enforcement case was initiated following a complaint received on December 11, 2024, regarding rubbish on the property. The property owner has been cooperative and is actively working toward full compliance. Arrangements are being made to have the remaining vehicles removed from the rear of the lot. Voluntary compliance is always the goal of the City and staff appreciate steps being taken to remedy the violation.

## Abandoned Pink Trailer

A pink travel trailer was abandoned at the corner of West Walnut and North Shasta Streets. After efforts to identify the owner were unsuccessful, the trailer was lawfully removed by Code Enforcement and the Fire Department to eliminate potential public safety and nuisance concerns.

The City appreciates residents who bring concerns forward, as community input helps staff identify issues and focus efforts where they are most needed.



North Butte Street - Before & After



Abandoned Pink Trailer

## Willows Municipal Code Fun Fact:

### Title 12— Streets, Sidewalks and Public Places

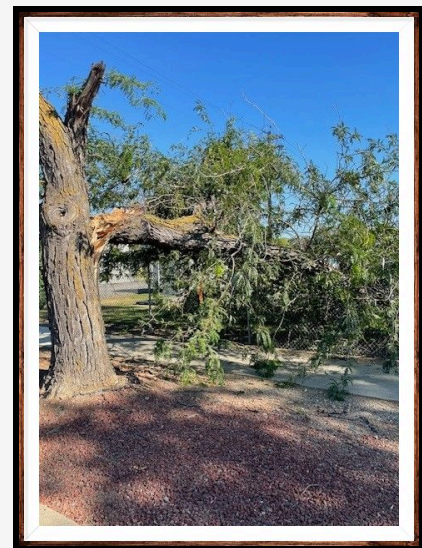
#### Chapter 12.3 — Trees

##### 12.30.090 Public nuisances.

The following circumstances may be declared public nuisances by the safety committee:

(1) Any tree or other plant or part thereof growing upon private property but overhanging the street or interfering with the use of any street which in the opinion of the safety committee endangers the life, health, safety or property of the public;

(2) Any plant which does interfere with, impair or destroy any street improvement, sidewalk, curb, gutter, sewer, street trees, or any public improvement;



(3) Vines or climbing plants growing into or over any street or any public hydrant, pole, or electrolier; and

(4) Any tree, shrub, or portion thereof planted in a triangular area measured 35 feet along the face of the existing curb or projected curb in either direction from the curb intersection in such condition as to constitute a hazard or impediment to the progress or vision of anyone traveling on a public street.

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## **Engineering Division**

### **Willows Secures \$255,000 for Community Cleanup Program**

The City of Willows has been awarded \$255,000 by the Clean California Community Cleanup and Employment Pathways Program to provide paid, structured work opportunities while addressing litter, illegal dumping, and graffiti in public areas. Work will focus on improving high-use community spaces such as Jensen Park, Sycamore Park, Central Park, the City Skate Park, and other public areas, through cleanup, repairs to vandalized surfaces, landscaping, and safety-related improvements. The City will work with community partners (e.g., schools, civic organizations) and will share ways that residents may get involved as activities are initiated.

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## **Planning Division**

### **Planning Commission Vacancy Still Open!**

The City of Willows is accepting applications to fill one current vacancy on the Planning Commission. Commissioner Sherry Brott has been re-appointed, and the city is still seeking applicants to fill the remaining open seat for a full four-year term. Residents interested in serving the community are encouraged to apply. Applications must be physically received in the City Clerk's Office by the end of the business day on Thursday, February 26. Application materials are available on the [city website](#) and at the following link: [Planning Commission Application](#).

## **Planning Commission Action Roundup**

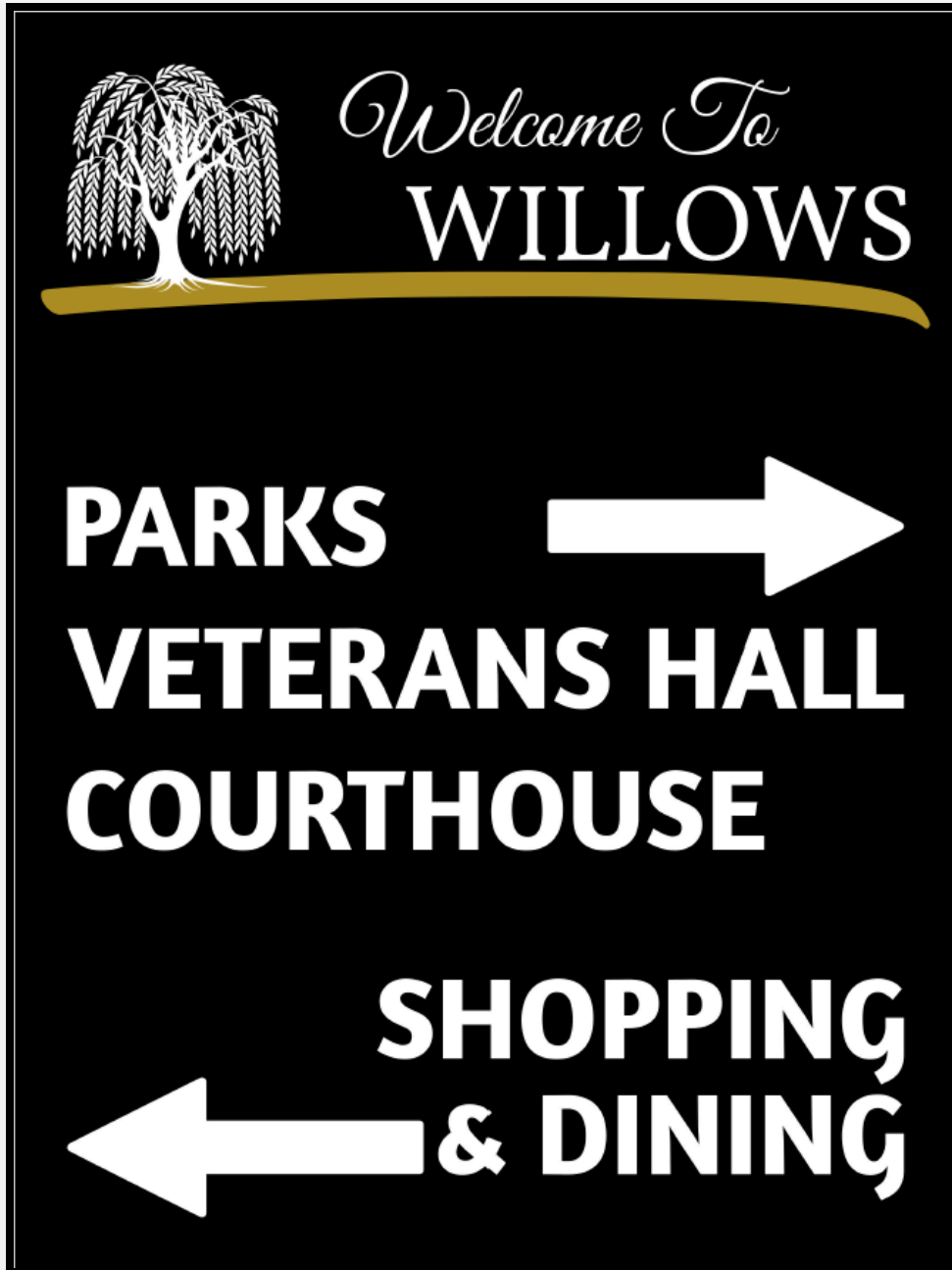
### **January 21 & February 3 Planning Commission Meetings**

#### **January 21**

- Elected Commissioner Corum as Chair and Commissioner McNeil as Vice Chair to preside over the Planning Commission for the 2026 calendar year.
- Approved new wayfinding signs.

## February 3

- Approved a Conditional Use Permit for Central Valley Automotors to operate a used car dealership at 201 South Tehama Street, Suite C.



Approved Wayfinding Sign

## Public Works Division

### Park Maintenance

Public Works crews have been preparing Jensen Park for the upcoming softball season by raking and trimming the fields. Crews have also been completing leaf removal throughout the entire park to improve cleanliness, safety, and overall park appearance.

### "No Parking" Signs Installed at North Humboldt Avenue

The City received multiple complaints about vehicles parking on the west side of North Humboldt across from Cedar Hill Apartments in a short, unimproved section where “No Parking” signs did not exist. This created safety concerns and an unsightly condition. The signs are now in place for portions of the corridor, with temporary signs posted where needed until the remaining permanent signs arrive. This update makes the restriction clear and consistent and helps keep the area well-maintained and safer for everyone.

### **Tehama and Wood St. Intersection Repair**

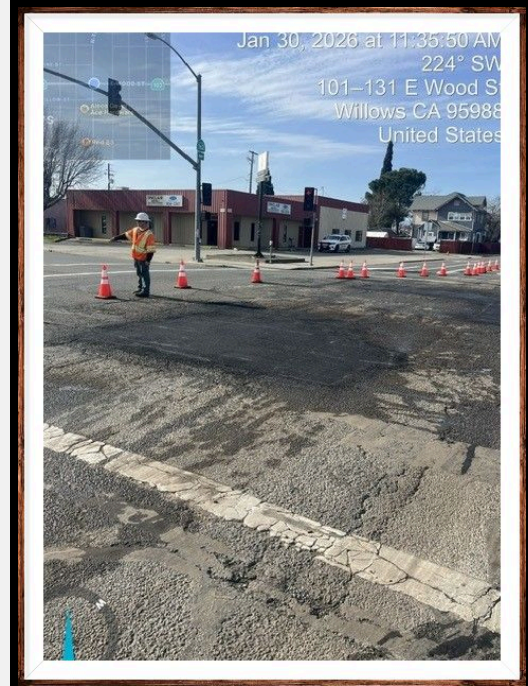
City staff attended Caltrans’ Annual Coordination Meeting on January 21, 2026, and raised ongoing concerns about the deteriorated pavement at the Tehama and Wood Streets intersection. In response, Caltrans completed a grind-and-patch repair at the intersection, which the City had requested several times before. This work helps address a growing safety hazard and improves driving conditions for the community. The City appreciates Caltrans maintenance staff, along with Glenn County’s support, for moving this repair forward.



Softball fields freshly raked by Public Works.



"No parking" signs installed.



Patch repair at Tehama and Wood Streets

## Recreation Division

### Youth Basketball Season Underway

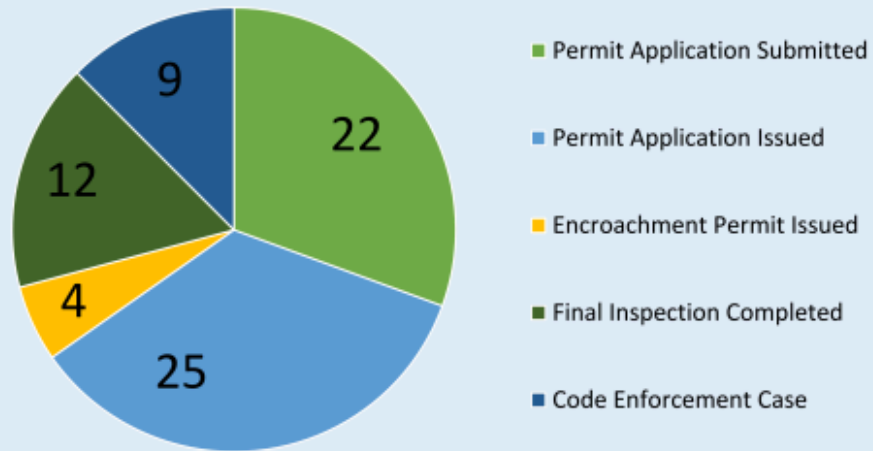
The Willows Youth Basketball Program is in full swing at the WIS Gym from January 24 through March 7. This program is designed to help young players build basketball skills, learn teamwork, and enjoy active play in a fun and supportive environment.

Game times are organized by age group to ensure appropriate instruction and play:

- Ages 4–6: 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
- Ages 7–9: 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
- Ages 10–13: 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Families are encouraged to arrive a few minutes early to allow time for check-in and warm-ups. We look forward to an exciting season of learning, teamwork, and fun on the court!

## Community Development Activity January 2026



## Public Works Division Activity January 2026



## FINANCE

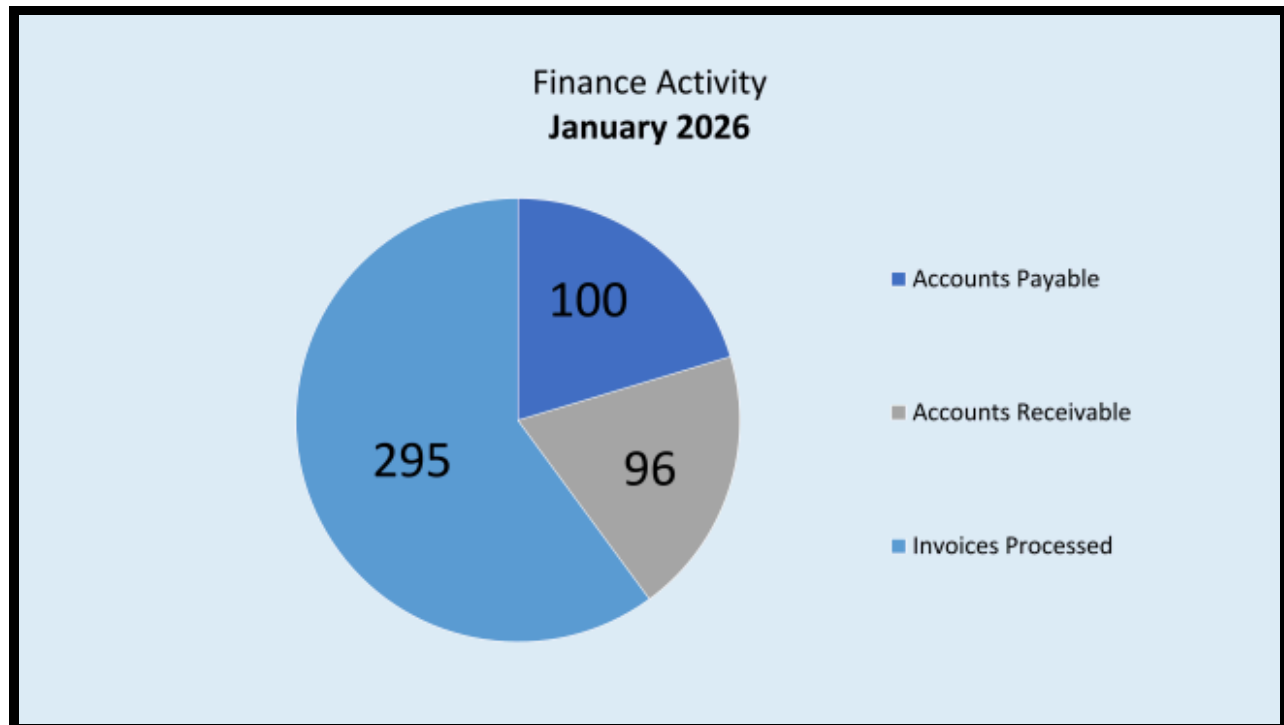
### Welcome Finance Director Joei Harrison!

The City of Willows is pleased to announce that Joei Harrison started her new role as Finance Director on January 12, 2026.

Joei brings extensive experience in both government and nonprofit organizations, along with a strong background in public and private sector finance. She has particular expertise in Fund Accounting, financial oversight, and organizational fiscal management. Most recently, Joei

served as the Chief Financial Officer for an engineering consulting firm, where she led financial strategy, budgeting, and long-term planning efforts.

Joei holds a Bachelor's degree in Accounting and a Master of Business in Economics & Management, equipping her with both the technical expertise and strategic leadership skills the city needs! Welcome to the team, Joei!



## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **Fire Response, Prevention & Emergency Medical Services**

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#### **Major Incidents & Emergency Response**

##### **Vehicle Collision with Motorcycle**

The Willows Fire Department (WFD) responded to the area of West Sycamore Street and North Culver Avenue for a reported vehicle collision with a motorcycle. Fire units arrived on the scene within three minutes and immediately initiated Advanced Life Support (ALS) medical care. Despite rapid intervention and lifesaving efforts, the patient sustained significant traumatic injuries and was ultimately pronounced deceased at the scene. WFD personnel remained committed to the incident for approximately two hours to provide patient care, scene management, and coordination with assisting agencies.

## **January Storm Response & Pre-Positioning Efforts**

In preparation for early January storm activity, WFD upstaffed two separate California Office of Emergency Services (CAL OES) funded pre-positioning assignments. These proactive deployments allow resources to be strategically placed ahead of anticipated severe weather to enhance response readiness and community protection.

During these assignments, WFD personnel assisted with debris removal, sandbagging operations, area patrols, and other storm-related support activities. All associated costs for staffing and operations were fully funded through CAL OES.

These responses reflect WFD's continued commitment to rapid emergency response, regional cooperation, and proactive disaster preparedness efforts.



Flooding as a result of January storms.

## **WFD Honors and Pays Tribute**

The Willows Fire Department (WFD) had the privilege of assisting with two solemn and meaningful tributes, standing alongside our community to honor lives of service and sacrifice. WFD remains committed not only to protecting our community, but also to honoring those who have dedicated their lives in service to others.

### **Honoring Retired Deputy Dan Perry**

On January 30, WFD, alongside Orland Fire Department (OFD), assisted with funeral services for retired Glenn County Sheriff's Office Deputy, Dan Perry. Fire personnel supported the service to help ensure a respectful and dignified tribute. We extend our deepest condolences to Deputy Perry's family, friends, and our law enforcement partners.

## **Tribute to SP4 Bob Mulholland**

On January 19, WFD paid tribute to SP4 Bob Mulholland as he began his final journey to Arlington National Cemetery. WFD members were proud to stand in tribute and support of a hero who served our nation.



Flags fly in honor of Dan Perry and Bob Mulholland.



## **Trainings**

Throughout January, the Willows Fire Department (WFD) participated in several hands-on training sessions to strengthen skills, ensure compliance, and enhance firefighter safety and readiness.

### **Structural PPE & SCBA Operations Training**

On January 6, WFD members conducted comprehensive training on structural personal protective equipment (PPE) and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) operations. Training included PPE and SCBA donning and doffing drills, SCBA use and maintenance, PPE limitations, and proper gear care. To build comfort and endurance while operating in full gear, members participated in a dodgeball exercise while wearing full structural PPE and using SCBAs. This activity helps firefighters acclimate to movement and heavy breathing under real-world conditions while engaging in fun and challenging training activities. Members also received instruction on SCBA compressor operations, including how air tanks are safely refilled when empty.

### **Annual Gear Inspection & SCBA Fit Testing**

On January 13, WFD members completed annual turnout gear inspections and SCBA fit testing, both of which are required by law. These inspections and fit tests ensure that all equipment is functioning properly and that each firefighter's gear provides the necessary protection during emergency operations.

### **Advanced Airway Management Training**

On January 27, WFD partnered with Reach Air Ambulance to host an advanced airway management course focused on managing difficult airways in critically ill patients in the field. Members received instruction on intubation techniques, airway anatomy, basic life support (BLS) airway techniques, airway pathophysiology, and other critical skills essential for high-level patient care during emergency medical responses. These trainings reflect WFD's ongoing commitment to professional development, safety, and providing the highest level of service to the community.

## **Code Enforcement**

### **Abatement Action Completed at 802 Tamarack Way**

The Willows Fire Department (WFD) authored and secured approval of an abatement warrant for the property located at 802 Tamarack Way as a result of longstanding code enforcement noncompliance, health and safety code violations, and violations of the Willows Municipal Code.

On January 30, WFD, in coordination with the City's contracted abatement team, executed the warrant. The operation resulted in the removal of approximately 110 cubic yards of debris from the property, along with the elimination of additional hazardous conditions.

This action will help to reduce fire risk, improve neighborhood safety, and ensure compliance with local and state regulations.

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## **LIBRARY**

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### **Willows Public Library Updates**

#### **Library Board Meeting**

The next Willows Library Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 9 at 11:00 a.m. Community members are welcome to attend. Also, check out past Board meeting agenda, minutes and recordings on the [Library web page](#).

#### **Collection Updates**

Many new items will be added to the library collection soon. Be sure to check out the FREE Book Cart inside the library for gently used items that have been withdrawn from circulation.



Storytime crafting



Storytime crafting

## Upcoming Events

### Guest Storytime Reader

Join us for a special Guest Storytime on Wednesday, February 18, featuring Council Member Lorri Pride as our guest reader. We look forward to a fun and engaging morning for our young readers and families.

### Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Families with children ages 0–5 are encouraged to sign up for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Each enrolled child will receive one free book per month (available in English or bilingual English/Spanish) until their fifth birthday. For more information, speak with the City Librarian or one of the Library Clerks.

### Rural Health Connections Initiative

Through the Rural Health Connections initiative, the Willows Public Library will host three adult health-related programs this spring. More details will be announced soon—please stay tuned.

## Library Improvements & Grants

### Digital Displays Installed

Three of the four new digital display screens are now installed throughout the library. These displays will support programming, announcements, and meeting needs.

### Grant Awards

The Willows Public Library was awarded \$10,000 from the Carnegie Foundation to support library goals and community services.

Additionally, the library received \$1,200 from the Pilcrow Foundation to purchase children's books. This award doubles previously donated funds contributed by Willows residents, expanding the library's youth collection.

## New Program Space

Renovations of the library's new program space are nearly complete, providing enhanced opportunities for events, workshops, and community gatherings.



New program space.

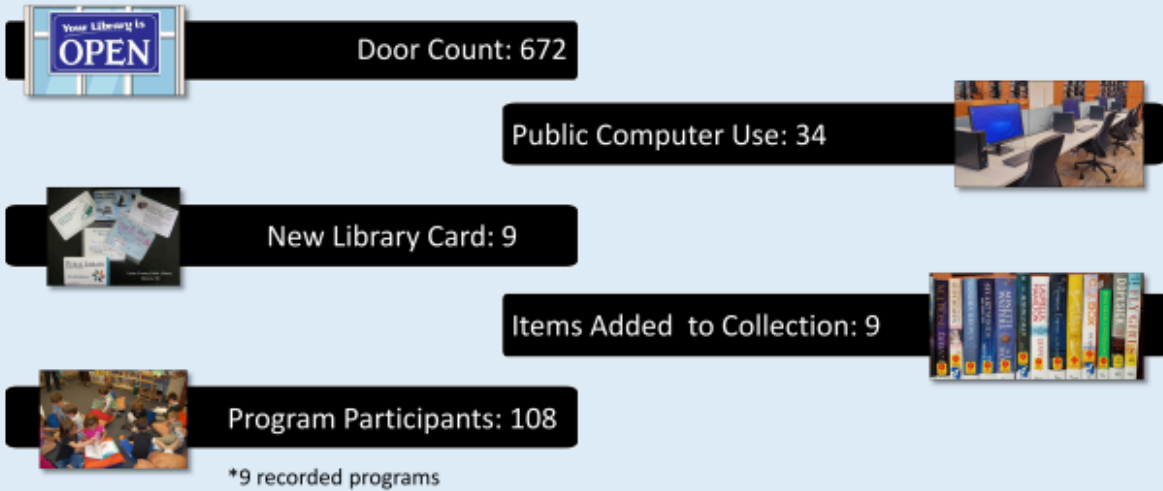


Maker Time in new space.

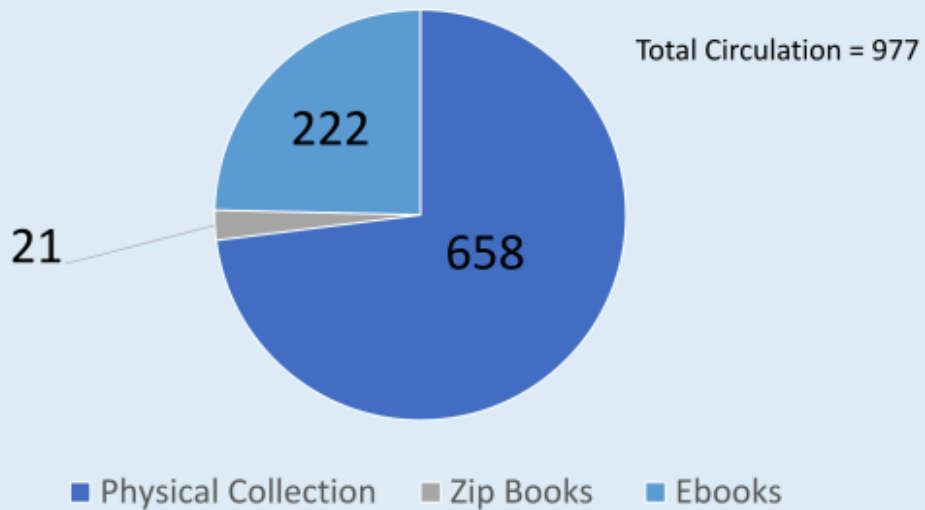
## February Calendar

FEBRUARY 2026						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4 Storytime @ 2pm BIG	5 Maker Time @ 4pm Playdoh Night	6	7
8	9	10	11 Storytime @ 2pm One Zillion Valentines	12 Library Board @ 11am  Maker Time @ 4pm ValentineS	13	14
15	16	17	18 Storytime @ 2pm Special Guest Love IS	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Storytime @ 2pm My Daddy is a Cowboy	26 Maker Time @ 4pm Loom & Weave	27	28

## Library Activity January 2026



## Circulation of Materials January 2026





## City of Willows

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