

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Willows Monthly - March 2024



Upcoming Meetings

City Council

- **March 26** - Regular Meeting @ 6:00 PM
- **April 9** - Regular Meeting @ 6:00 PM

Planning Commission

- **March 20** - Regular Meeting @ 6:00 PM

Library Board

- **April 11** - Regular Meeting @ 11:00 AM

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

CITY COUNCIL ROUNDUP:

Council Actions for February 13, February 27, and March 12, 2024 City Council Meetings

February 13 Council Meeting

- Authorized the City Manager to execute a Facilities Use Agreement with the Willows Unified School District to use the School District's swimming pool during the 2024 summer swim season for an amount not to exceed \$20,000.
- Approved an update to the Council Protocol Manual refining the process to direct use of City Attorney time.
- Authorized the City Manager to execute an agreement with North Valley Cleaning to clean the HVAC ducts in the Civic Center in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.
- Appointed Coastland Civil Engineering as the the Engineer of Work for the City of Willows Landscape and Lighting Special Assessment District.
- Upheld appeal (from the Planning Commission decision) and approved the Major Use Permit for Henry's Trading Post.

February 27 Council Meeting

- Approved a budget amendment of \$9,000 for emergency repairs of fire department apparatus and other routine vehicle maintenance.

March 12 Council Meeting

- Approved amendment to the Willows Employee Association Memorandum of Understanding to permit representation by the United Public Employees of California (UPEC).
- Authorized the City Manager to execute a lease agreement with the Willows Unified School District to lease City-owned property located at Willows High School.

Joint Cities and County Special Meeting

On February 29, 2024, with sponsorship from Thunderhill Raceway Park, the City of Willows

hosted the Joint Willows-Orland-Glenn County Special Meeting and Dinner at Thunderhill.

During the meeting, the three agencies presented and discussed recent accomplishments and upcoming future projects covering such topics as public safety, mental health, finance, economic development and public infrastructure.



Small Business Technical Assistance Services

3CORE (based in Chico) offers a Small Business Technical Assistance Program to eligible businesses located in Butte, Tehama, and Glenn counties. They assist with marketing, web development, social media outreach, and business development services all free of charge. Learn more about how to participate in this great opportunity at www.3coreedc.org.



SMALL BUSINESS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

MARKETING STRATEGY

3CORE's Technical Assistance Programs are available at no cost to eligible small businesses located in Butte, Tehama, and Glenn Counties. The process begins with a one-on-one interview and focuses on helping your business examine its challenges. The outcome of this interview allows us to align your business with the appropriate resources needed to address the identified challenges.

WHAT CAN THIS PROGRAM HELP YOU WITH?

- MARKETING ASSISTANCE**
We can help your business improve your marketing strategies and reach your target audience more effectively through consulting services, advisory support, and hands-on assistance in specific marketing activities.
- WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT**
We can develop or improve your website to establish a credible online presence, reach a wider audience, and provide 24/7 accessibility to potential customers.
- SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS**
We can create or improve your social media presence as a cost-effective platform for marketing and advertising, helping your business reach a wider audience, and increase your brand visibility.
- BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**
We provide assistance in several areas such as financial or credit counseling, business planning, management support, human resources, including hiring guidance, and more.

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES

Planning, Building, Code Enforcement, Engineering, Public

Engineering Division

CCTV Sewer Inspection

The City is contracting with APS Environmental to scope sewer lines between Butte and Plumas Streets from Wood to Laurel Streets, on South Yolo Street from Wood to East Ash Streets, and on Sacramento Street from Wood Street to the GCID Canal.



The results and findings of the CCTV video inspection will be presented in a final technical report that will comprise clear video images of any irregularities and physical features from the video inspections including, but not limited to, sags, lateral connections, cracks, damaged pipes, root intrusions, offsets, displaced gaskets, evidence of inflow/infiltration, and any other anomalies. Sewage line replacement and/or repairs are anticipated using a combination of Sewage Enterprise Funds (e.g., bond monies) and grant funding.

Library HVAC System Replacement

The long anticipated replacement of the Library and City Hall HVAC system is complete. As the building is a designated Cold-Hot Safety Center for Glenn County residents, unit replacements were imperative for protecting and supporting vulnerable members of the Glenn County community. A State grant and Library Impact Fees funded the project.

Planning Division

A New Hotel is coming to town!

A Use Permit and Design Review application for a new 109 room, 65,000 square-foot three story hotel was

recently submitted to the Planning Division. The proposed location is north of the existing Holiday Inn Express on North Humboldt Avenue. Staff looks forward to expediting this project and moving it forward quickly.

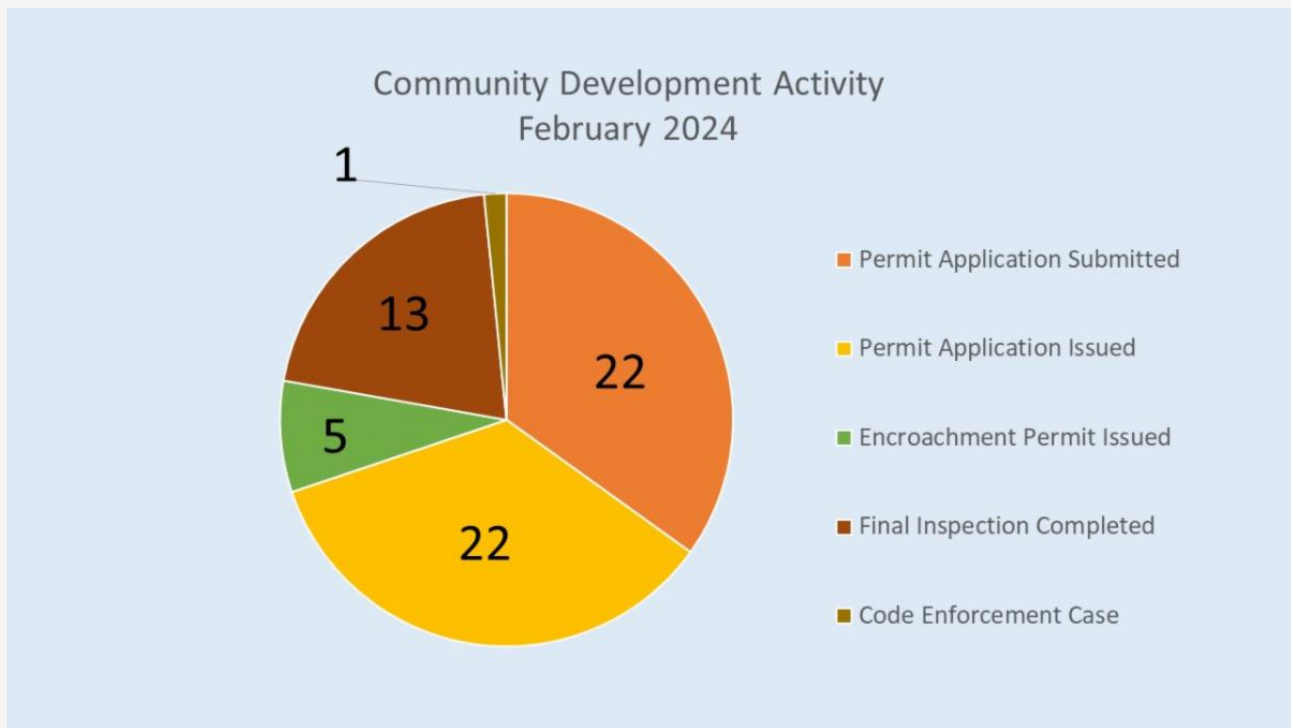


Henry's Trading Post

At the February 13, 2024 City Council meeting, Henry's Trading Post, a mini-mart offering a variety of convenience items, was approved for a Major Use Permit. Currently, the owner is completing upgrades to the building at 360 West Sycamore Street and plans to open soon. The City welcomes Henry's Trading Post to the Willows business community and appreciates their investment in the city.

Jack in the Box

The project applicant recently submitted another round of revised plans. They are under plan review by staff and approved plans should be forthcoming very soon. The vacant lot east of the Chevron Station on Wood Street is the proposed location for the project (see satellite map below).



Public Works Division

Jetting Sewer Lines

Crews are jetting sewer lines to remove debris which includes built up fats, wet wipes, paper towels and other obstructions. As a reminder, please only flush toilet paper down the toilet. Even "flushable" wipes degrade slowly and cause problems with sewer infrastructure and public works equipment.



Problems Caused by Flushing Wipes and Towels

- **Clogs and Blockages:** Wipes and paper towels do not break down as quickly as toilet paper. When flushed, they can accumulate in pipes and sewer lines leading to clogs and blockages. Over time, these blockages cause backups leading to sewage spills and potential damage to infrastructure and property.
- **Damage to Sewer Systems:** Municipal sewer systems are not designed to handle the disposal of non-biodegradable materials such as wipes and paper towels. The accumulation of these materials strain and damage pipes and pumping equipment leading to costly repairs and maintenance.
- **Environmental Impact:** If wipes and paper towels end up in water bodies, they may contribute to environmental pollution. These materials do not break down easily and may harm aquatic ecosystems affecting marine life and water quality.
- **Increased Maintenance Costs:** Municipalities and wastewater treatment facilities incur additional costs for the maintenance and repair of sewer systems due to the inappropriate disposal of wipes and paper towels. This may result in increased costs to local government and, in some cases, lead to higher utility bills for residents.

No Wipes Down the Pipes

Even if a product says it is “flushable” ...

Unless it is toilet paper, it should not be flushed!

- Diapers (including cloth, cotton, disposable, or plastic)
- Flushable, disposable, cleaning, or baby wipes
- Paper towels, cloth towels, or any type of rag
- Feminine hygiene products
- Facial Tissues



Place the items listed above in a trash can

**Putting these items down toilets may plug sewers and
cause raw sewage to back up into YOUR HOME**

Public Works Division Activity
February 2024



Tree/Stump Removal - 62
Tree Trimming - 3



Call Requests - Sewage Line Issues - 2



Poured 7 tons of cold patch
to fill potholes.



New USA Markings - 85

RECREATION

Spring Soccer

Spring Soccer is right around the corner! The City anticipates 30 to 40 youth participants ranging from age 4-14. The Season will begin on March 30 and run through May 5. Games will be hosted on Saturdays at the Willows Intermediate School. Please [contact the City](#) for more information.



Jensen Park - Softball Field Availability

Please note, Willows High School Softball is currently practicing and hosting games at Jensen Park's softball fields. As a result, availability for private rentals may be limited. GO HONKERS!

Tennis Courts - Temporarily Closed

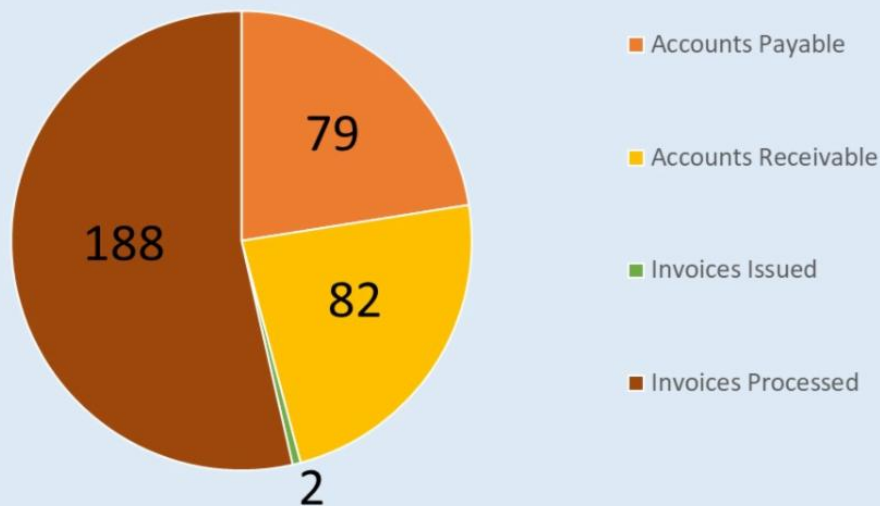
Due to structural cracks and potential public health and safety risks, the City of Willows regrettably announces the temporary closure of its public tennis courts. The City recently received a grant to renovate various infrastructure at Sycamore Park, including the public tennis courts. Complete renovation is anticipated by next summer, including the addition of new pickleball courts. Meanwhile, your patience is appreciated.



Now hiring - Finance and Human Resources Specialist Unfortunately, the recent Finance and Human Resources Specialist that was hired in early February quickly resigned after just three short weeks citing the long commute, high cost of fuel and low salary as reasons for her untimely departure. The City immediately started a new recruitment and interviews are already underway. A new hire should be announced soon.

2023-23 AuditAs the City's only two Finance staff both left the City within 48 hours of each other in late August 2023, the completion of the 2022-23 Audit was significantly delayed. The draft Audit is currently being finalized and a presentation to the City Council is expected in May.

Finance Activity
February 2024



FIRE

Fire Response, Prevention & Emergency Medical Services

2023 Annual Fire Report

At the February 13, 2024, City Council meeting, Fire Chief Nate Monck presented the 2023 Annual Fire Report including [*A Year in Review* video](#) produced by Volunteer Firefighter Timothy Danley.

Flood Events & Pre-Positioning

- With funding from Cal OES Fire Division, Willows, Orland, Artois, Glenn-Codora, and Elk Creek Fire Departments were able to increase staffing levels during recent storm events. The increased firefighters were configured as a Strike team and responded to dozens of flood incidents throughout the County. Units responded to **eight** water rescues, assisted with road closures, assessed flooding and damages, assisted with sandbagging, and removed hazardous trees just to name a few of their activities. The City and career Fire Department staff are very appreciative of the additional resources provided to respond to natural emergencies during the month of February.



- On February 19, Willows experienced a serious downpour of rain leading to significant flooding throughout the City. All County and City pumps were operational; however, they were overwhelmed by the sheer volume of water received. Fire Department resources conducted pumping operations at both Glenwood Lane and Juniper Drive to protect homes and prevent flooding. Crews also pumped water at Green and North Humboldt Streets. Pre-Positioned resources from Orland, Willows, Glenn-Codora and Artois all responded to assist with the major flooding event. The City is grateful for their support and ongoing partnership to protect Glenn County residents.

Medication Disposal Program

Attention Willows residents, do you have old or extra medication you want to get rid of? Don't flush it! Send or deliver your medications to Glenn County's new Medication Disposal Program to be safely disposed of by professionals. Stop by the Fire Department at 445 South Butte Street in Willows and pick up a prepaid envelope. To prevent accidental exposure to others, all medications should be in a closed bottle before inserting them into the envelope, then simply seal the envelope and drop it in the mail. Through this Program, old/unused medications will be safely disposed of without penetrating the City and County's water supply. As envelopes are in limited supply, please stop by the fire station to pick up one soon.

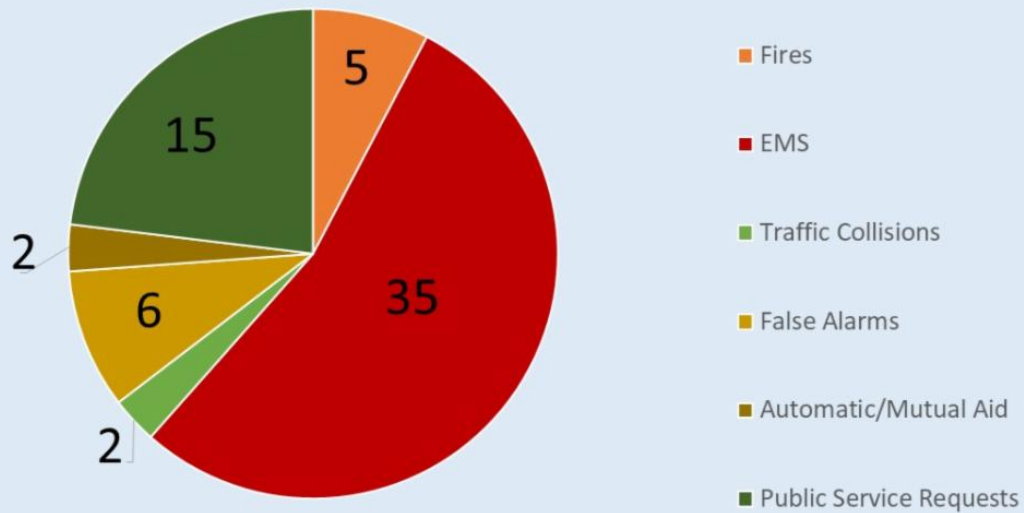
Centralized Dispatch

Glenn County Sheriff's Office is now dispatching both fire and law enforcement in Glenn County. After many years of hard work and regional coordination, the unified dispatch center is now live! The consolidated dispatch center will improve coordination between law enforcement and fire responders and more efficiently dispatch resources to emergencies in Glenn County. All Fire Districts within the County of Glenn, both city and rural, will now be dispatched by one call center at the Glenn County Sheriff's Office.

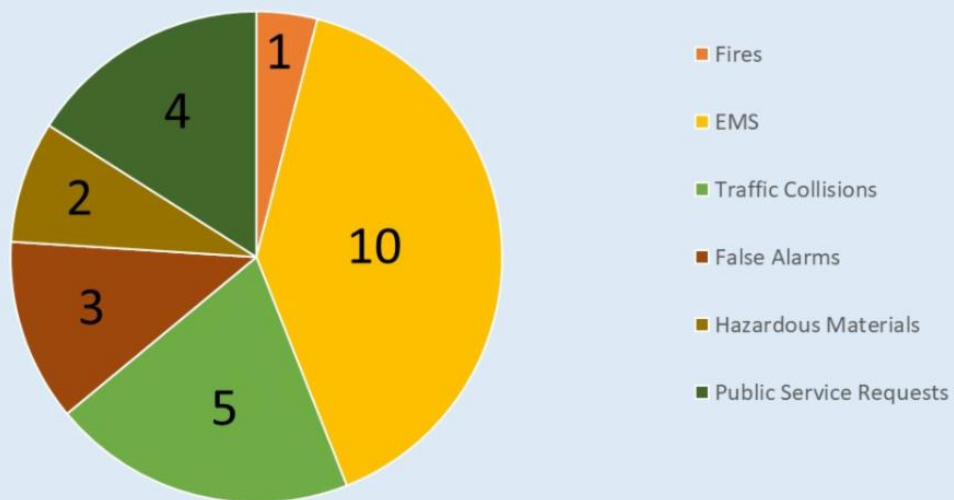
Moving forward, a Dispatcher from the Glenn County Sheriff's Office will respond to all emergency and fire services, including burn report lines from other districts such as Orland and Capay. Glenn County Sheriff's Office unified dispatch center can be contacted at 530-934-6431 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Please note, the Burn Day Information Hotline will remain 1-800-446-2876 for air pollution control purposes.

Willows Fire Department Activity
February 2024



Willows Rural Fire Protection District Activity
February 2024



LIBRARY

Bilingual Storytime

Special thank you to Karla, Diego, and Glenn County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) for last month's bilingual storytime about caring for our teeth.



March Activities & Events

In addition to the Library's regular ongoing activities such as Storytime, Block Party, and Game & Movie Days, the Willows Library is pleased to announce this month's following special events:

- Are you ready to *Read Across America*? Pick up a *Reading Challenge* and complete it before the end of March to win a prize! And don't forget to grab a Storytime-To-Go kit to make your own Dr. Seuss bookmark.
- Families for Literacy returns on Thursday, March 21 at 4pm. Join library staff for storytelling, crafts, snacks and a free book giveaway.
- On March 28 at 7:00 pm, join library staff for Teen Egg Hunt, an after-hours teen only, glow-in-the-dark egg hunt. Registration is required. Please sign up at the Library's front desk or email your name and age to Ashley, Children's Librarian, at AshleyWPL@outlook.com.



MARCH

2024

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

Mon: 1-5pm
Tue: 11-5pm
Wed: 11-7pm
Thu: 11-7pm
Fri: 11-5pm

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

Library Activity February 2024



Door Count – 764



Public Computer Use – 99



New Library Card - 9



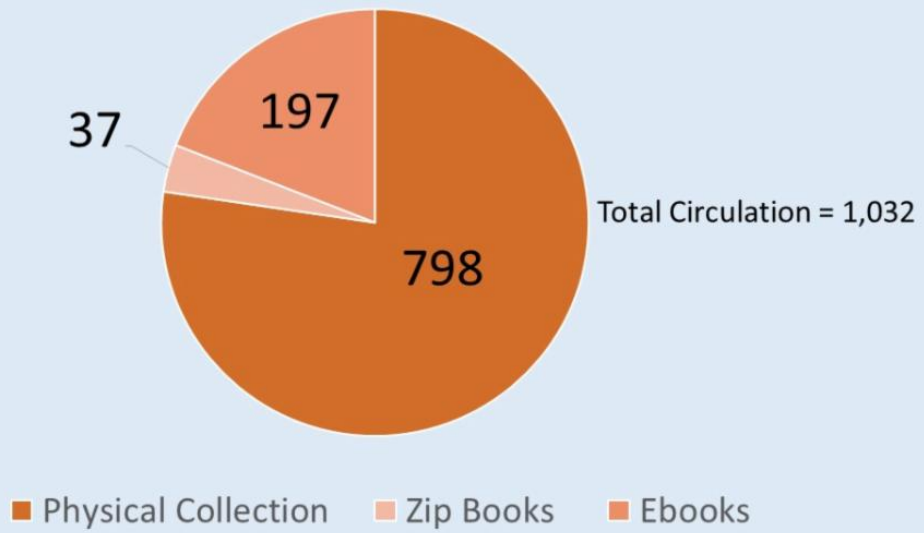
Items Added to Collection – 76



Program Participants – 121*

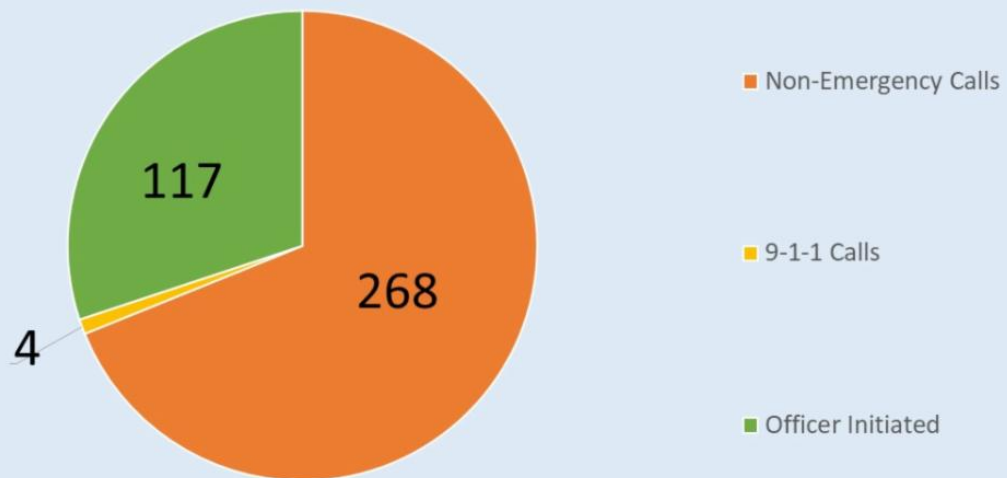
*Includes 13 programs and 73 Storytime
"To Go kits" distributed.

Circulation of Materials
February 2024

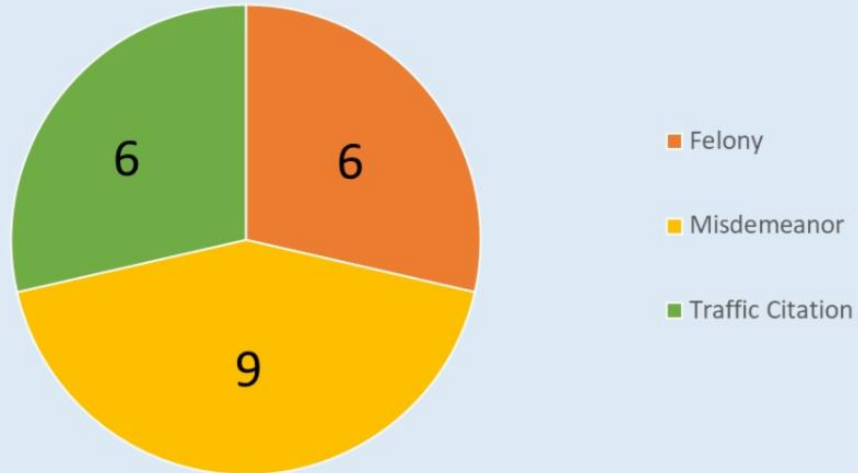


SHERIFF

Sheriff Department Activity – Calls for Service
February 2024



Sheriff Department Activity – Arrests & Citations
February 2024



City Of Willows


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