

Willows Monthly - November 2023

Happy Thanksgiving!



Upcoming Meetings

City Council

- **November 28** - Regular Meeting @ 6:00 PM
- **December 12** - Regular Meeting @ 6:00 PM
- **December 26** - Regular Meeting, CANCELLED

Planning Commission

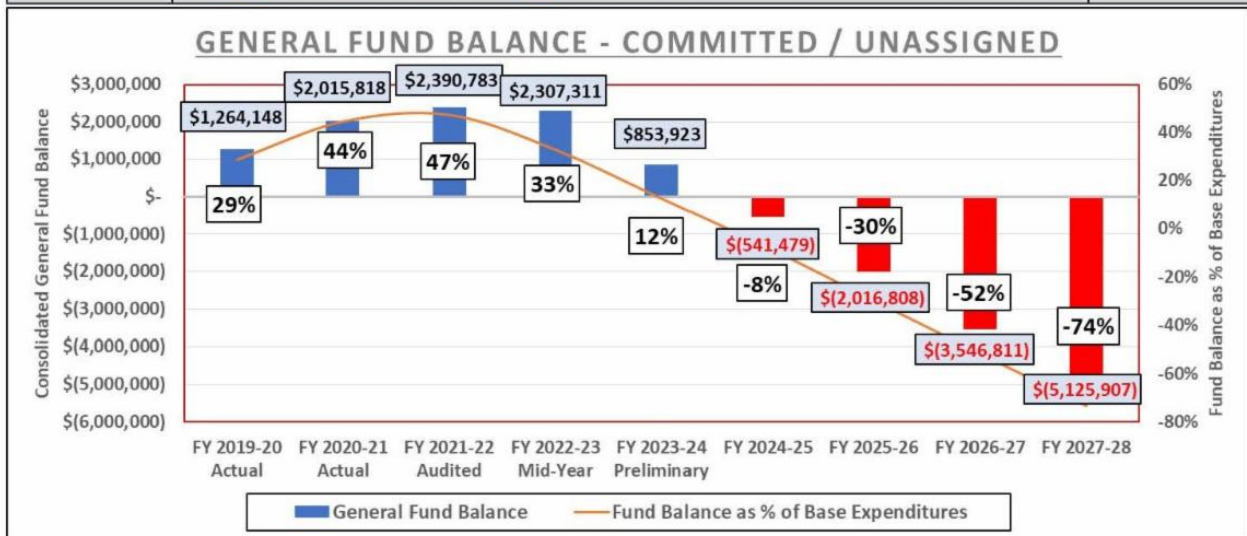
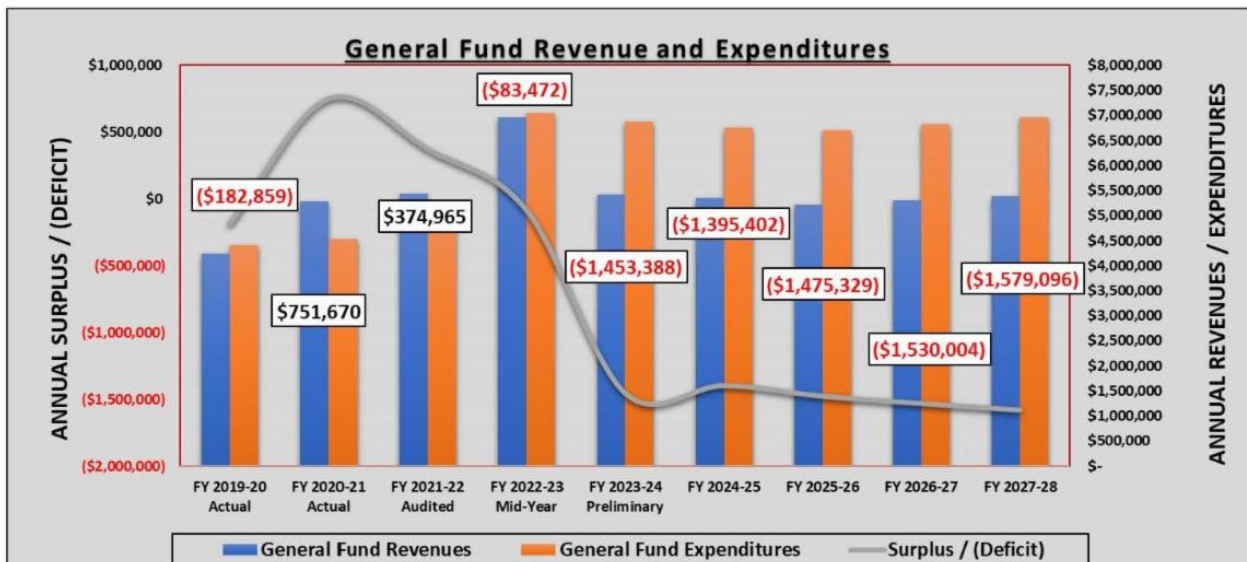
- **December 20** - Regular Meeting @ 6:00 PM

ADMINISTRATION

Fiscal Emergency & 1% Sales Tax

On October 10, 2023, the City Council declared a fiscal emergency and placed a 1% sales tax on the Presidential Primary ballot on March 5, 2024. As the financial forecasting model below illustrates, short of an immediate increase in revenue, the City will deplete its General Fund Reserve during Fiscal Year 2024-25.

The fiscal emergency is primarily a result of the abrupt \$1 million increase in the cost of the City's law enforcement agreement with the Glenn County Sheriff's Office between fiscal year 2022-23 and 2023-24. A cost that is ongoing and likely to grow in the coming years as increases in the County's expenses (e.g., salaries, pensions, fuel costs, overall inflation) are passed on to the City.



City Council Authorizes Hiring Freeze!

In response to the City's current fiscal crisis, the Council approved a hiring freeze at the Tuesday, November 14 City Council Meeting until after the March 5, 2024 election. Currently, that only impacts the Finance Department as the Finance & Human Resources Specialist is the only budget approved position that remains vacant.



CITY COUNCIL ROUNDUP:

Council Actions for November 14, 2023 City Council Meeting

November 14 Council Meeting

- Approved - Update to the job classification title of the Finance & Human Resources Analyst position to "Finance & Human Resources Specialist."
- Approved - Fiscal year 2023-2024 appropriations limit.
- Directed City staff to amend the scope of work for the four million dollar Clean California Grant project to include funding for the City pool rehabilitation.
- Approved - The revised temporary law enforcement agreement with the Glenn County Sheriff's Office.
- Continued - Discussion of "Future Short- and Long-Term Options for Law Enforcement Services" to the November 28 City Council meeting.
- Approved - \$10,000 towards a City education action plan for the 1% City Sales Tax Measure on the March Ballot.

Staying Safe and Secure this Holiday Season!

As we approach the holiday season, the City of Willows wants to encourage residents to have a safe and joyous holiday with their loved ones.



Decorating is one of the best ways to get in a holiday mood, but emergency rooms see thousands of injuries involving holiday decorating every season.

When decorating the tree and house, please follow these guidelines:

- Keep potentially poisonous plants – mistletoe, holly berries, Jerusalem cherry and amaryllis – away from children.
- If using an artificial tree, check that it is labeled "fire resistant."
- If using a live tree, cut off about 2 inches of the trunk to expose fresh wood for better water absorption, remember to water it and remove it from the home

when it is dry.

- Place the tree at least three feet away from fireplaces, radiators, and other heat sources, making certain not to block doorways.
- Avoid placing breakable ornaments or ones with small, detachable parts on lower tree branches where small children can reach them.
- Only use indoor lights indoors and outdoor lights outdoors, and choose the right ladder for the task when hanging lights.
- Replace light sets that have broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections.
- Follow the package directions on the number of light sets that can be plugged into one socket.
- Never nail, tack, or stress wiring when hanging lights and keep plugs off the ground away from water.
- Turn off all lights and decorations when you go to bed or leave the house.
- Place candles where they cannot be knocked down or blown over and out of reach of children.
- Keep matches and lighters up high and out of reach of children in a locked cabinet.
- Use flameless, rather than lighted, candles near flammable objects.
- Don't burn trees, wreaths or wrapping paper in the fireplace.
- Always use a screen on the fireplace when a fire is burning.
- Never leave candles or fireplaces burning unattended or when you are asleep.
- Check and clean the chimney and fireplace area at least once per year.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES

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

Engineering Division

Library HVAC Replacement

Replacement of the library's HVAC system is currently out for bid. Bids will be opened on November 30. This project will replace three old HVAC units on the roof of the library ensuring they will be able to provide dependable climate control to patrons. This is especially important as the library is one of the City's identified cold-hot safety centers for vulnerable members of our community who may need cooling during hot weather or warmth during the cold weather season. This project is funded through a State grant and the City's library impact fees.

Sewer Lift Station Upgrades

This month Public Works/Engineering released a Request for Proposals (RFP) from engineering consultants to design upgrades for the City's five sewer lift stations. This is an important project to keep the City's sewer infrastructure operating reliably and to provide upgraded communications at each one of the lift stations so that Public Works staff may monitor lift station operations remotely. This project is funded by bond monies that will be funded through the City's Sewage Enterprise Fund.

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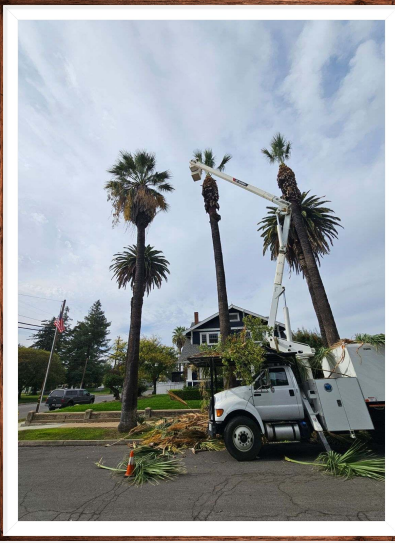
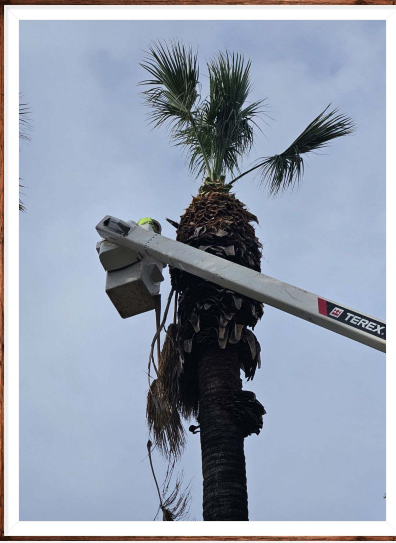
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Public Works Division

Tree Limbing & Leaf Pickup

Public works crews were hard at work this past month limbing palm trees and removing trees throughout the City. Additionally, they worked tirelessly through the first week of November to implement the City's annual leaf pick-up program.



Public Works Division Activity October 2023



Trees Removed / Trimmed - 35



New USA Markings - 28



Sewer Calls - 4

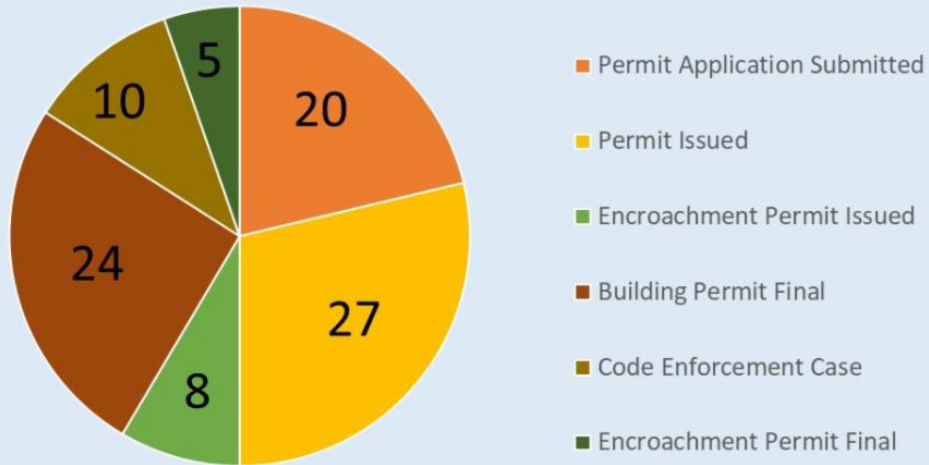
Recreation Division

Youth Basketball Registration - Starting Soon!

Willows Recreation Youth Basketball Registration is just around the corner and will go through January 31st! The fee is \$35 per player. Check out the [Recreation Division's Facebook page](#) for more information.



Community Development Activity October 2023



FIRE

Fire Response, Prevention & Emergency Medical Services

EMERGENCY HIGHLIGHTS

Vegetation Fire

On October 8, WFD responded to the Orland area for a large vegetation fire in Stoney Creek (as part of the City's regular Automatic Aid agreement). Resources were engaged for several hours. The regional Automatic Aid agreements with Orland and Artois Fire Department have been crucial in ensuring all three departments are able to respond and mitigate large scale incidents in a timely and resource efficient manner.



Residential Fire

On October 30, WFD was dispatched to a residential structure fire in the area of North Butte Street and First Avenue. The career Fire Engine arrived at the scene to find fire and smoke billowing from the structure and immediately initiated an aggressive offensive fire attack. The fire was extinguished by fire personnel and the property was turned back over to the property owner. The Fire was deemed unintentional, and no injuries were reported. Special thank you to Artois and Orland Fire Departments for providing Automatic aid.

PUBLIC EVENTS

Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention week was October 8-14. During the week, Willows Firefighters visited Walden Academy and Murdock School to educate the children on fire safety and prevention. Children learned about smoke detectors, what to do in a fire, building a Family Fire Escape Plan, and the tools and equipment firefighters use to do their jobs.



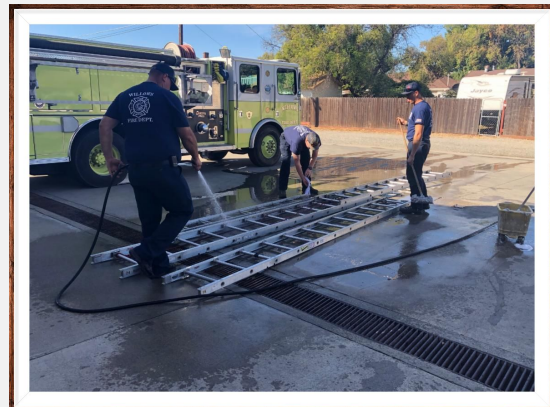
Willows Fire Department Honored

Willows Fire Department, and other Glenn County public safety organizations, were honored and recognized by the Orland Moose Lodge at their 2nd Annual First Responder Dinner. Thank you to the Orland Moose Lodge for the honor, it is a pleasure serving this great community of Glenn County!

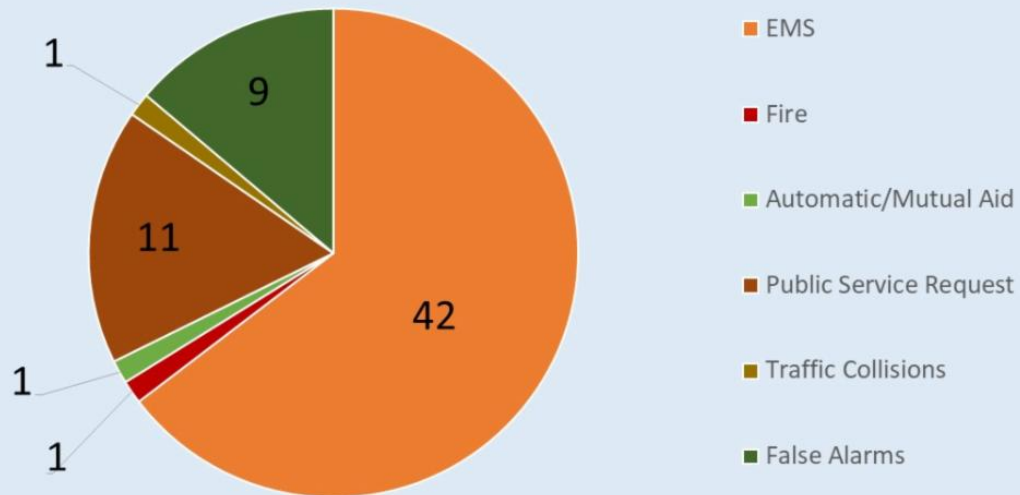
TRAINING

WFD has been busy in October and November training as part of its regularly scheduled Tuesday night drills and as part of the on boarding process for newly hired Fire Engineer, Jaimie Fuentes.

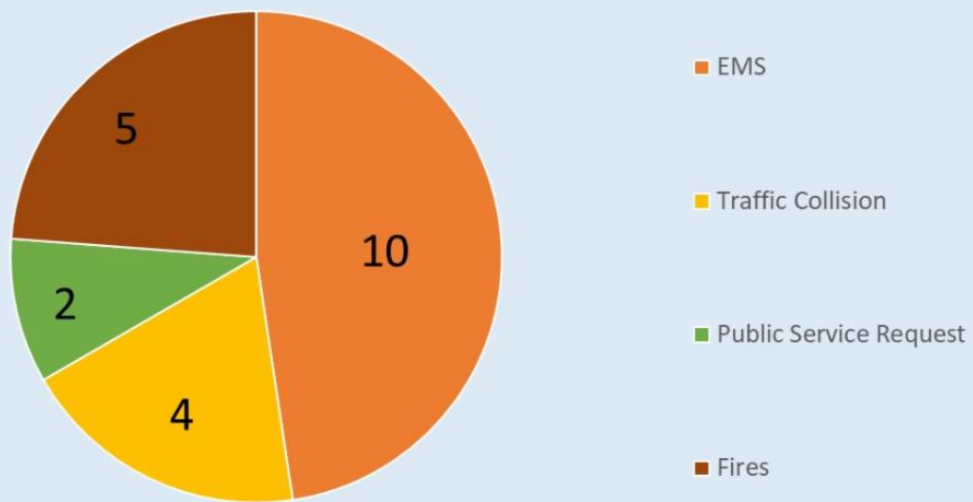
Firefighters have been learning everything from apparatus use and deployment, equipment capabilities and maintenance, fire control and hose deployments to vehicle extrication techniques and best practices.



Willows Fire Department Activity October 2023



Willows Rural Fire Protection District Activity October 2023



LIBRARY

Weekly Library Events

There are events happening every week at the Willows library, open to all patrons! Storytime is held every Wednesday, at 11am, in the children's section of the library. Join us for stories, songs, crafts, and fun learning activities. Check out the photos of some of our activities below, as well as the [library calendar](#) for upcoming events!



Kanopy: The Power of your Library Card Just Got Stronger!

The Willows Public Library is excited to announce that Kanopy, a streaming video collection, is now available to library patrons. Patrons can watch movies, documentaries, foreign films, classic cinema, independent films and educational videos that inspire, enrich and entertain through the [library's Kanopy site](#) and via the [Kanopy app](#).

Getting started is easy: Visit the [website](#) or app store, select "add a library card," and enter your library card barcode number. Follow the instructions to create your Kanopy account using your email address or Google login and start watching!

kanopy

THOUGHTFUL ENTERTAINMENT

Library Activity
October 2023



Door Count – 677



Public Computer Use – 81



New Library Card - 20



Items Added to Collection – 31



Program Participants – 307*

*Includes 14 programs and 81 Storytime
"To Go kits" distributed.

Circulation of Materials
October 2023



City Of Willows


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Willows, CA 95988
(530) 934-7041



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