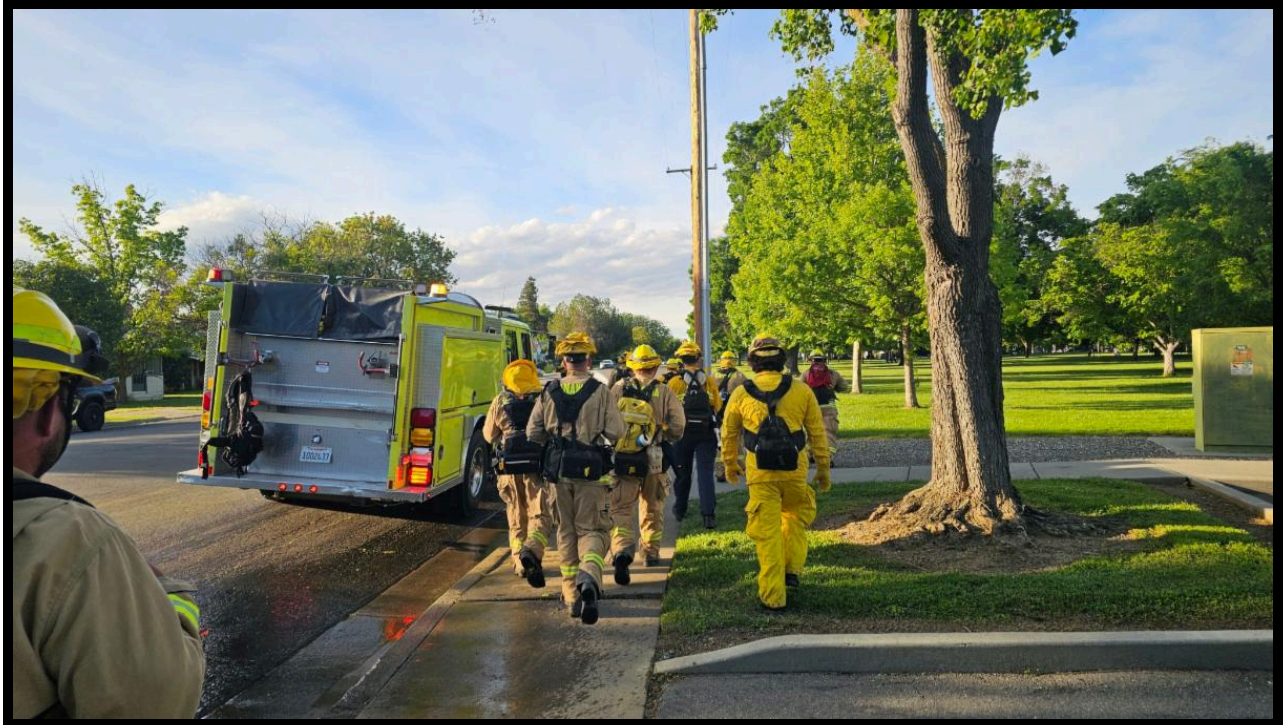


Willows Monthly Newsletter

May 2026



Top Stories:

- Joint City Council & Planning Commission Meeting - May 19
- Public Works Equipment Showcase & BBQ - May 21
- Welcome new Planning Commissioner Jesse Powell
- City of Willows Community Time Capsule Project
- Waste Management Community Cleanup Event - June 6
- Free Summer Swimming kicks off June 8!

Upcoming Meetings

City Council

- **May 19** - Joint CC & PC Meeting @ 5:30 p.m.
- **May 26** - Regular Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.
- **June 9** - Regular Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.

Planning Commission

- **May 19** - Joint CC & PC Meeting @ 5:30 p.m.
- **June 2** - Regular Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.

Library Board Of Trustees

- **June 11** - Regular Meeting @ 11:00 a.m.

ADMINISTRATION

General Operations, City Clerk's Office & Economic Development

Coffee with the Council

The City of Willows successfully hosted its first-ever Coffee with the Council event on **April 23, 2026**, at CB Kitchen in celebration of California Cities Week.

The informal gathering provided community members with an opportunity to connect directly with City Council members in a relaxed setting outside of the traditional council chambers. While attendance was modest, those who participated were highly engaged — asking thoughtful questions, sharing ideas, and participating in meaningful conversations about the community and the future of Willows.

Mayor Hutson, Vice Mayor Thomas, and Councilmembers Pride and Busby spent the morning visiting with residents, listening to feedback, and discussing current and future City projects. Both attendees and Council members expressed enthusiasm about continuing the event in the future as expressed in [Vice Mayor Thomas' open invitation](#) to participate in this event.

The City appreciates everyone who stopped by to join the conversation. Stay tuned for future opportunities to meet with the Council and discuss community concerns and issues.



Second Joint Planning Commission & City Council Meeting to Review the Willows Municipal Code, Title 18 (Zoning)

The City of Willows will hold its second Joint Planning Commission and City Council meeting on **May 19, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.** in **City Hall Council Chambers** to continue reviewing [Title 18 of the Willows Municipal Code](#), which governs zoning and land use within the City.

The first joint meeting on April 30, included meaningful discussion and public input on proposed updates to the zoning code. Due to time constraints, a second meeting was scheduled to allow the City Council, Planning Commission, City staff, Harris & Associates, and the public to continue reviewing the second half of Title 18.

This follow-up meeting will provide another opportunity for residents, business owners, property owners, and other stakeholders to participate in the discussion and help guide updates to the City's zoning regulations. Public input remains an important part of ensuring the revised zoning code reflects the needs and long-term vision of the Willows community.

Community members are encouraged to attend and take part in this continued conversation about land use, development standards, and the future growth of Willows.

Meeting Details:

What: Joint City Council & Planning Commission Meeting – Review of Title 18 (Zoning)

When: May 19, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

Where: Council Chambers, Willows City Hall, 201 North Lassen Street

Who: City Council, Planning Commission, and City staff

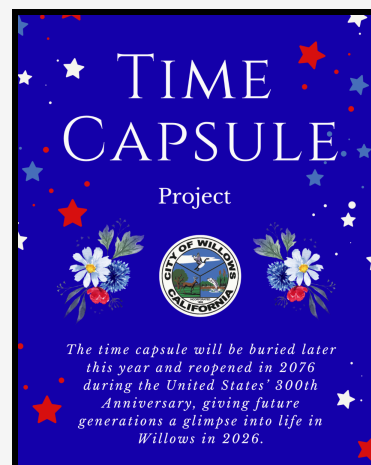
Purpose: Continue review of the second half of Title 18 (Zoning)

Community Time Capsule Project!

Join the City of Willows in the continued celebration of the City's 140th Anniversary in 2026! The City is excited to launch a community Time Capsule Project that will be buried later this year (to be determined) and reopened in 2076 during the United States' 300th Anniversary of its founding, offering future generations a glimpse into life in Willows in 2026.

Community members are invited to learn more about the project and contribute small items, letters, photographs, or memorabilia that reflect our community, history, and everyday life in 2026.

The City is looking for items such as:



- Letters or messages to the future,
- Drawings from students,
- Short stories, poems, or reflections,
- Event programs (e.g., Lamb Derby),
- City newsletters or flyers,
- Printed photos of the community, families, or landmarks,
- Postcards or newspaper clippings,
- Small memorabilia (e.g., pins, patches, stickers),
- Small handcrafted items (non-perishable),
- Business cards or menus from local businesses, and
- School-related items (e.g., mascot stickers).

Join the City in helping preserve a piece of Willows' history for future generations!

If you have any questions, ideas, or would like to donate an item, visit City Hall or contact Karleen Price at kprice@cityofwillows.org or (530) 934-7041 ext. 102.

City Council Action Roundup

April 28 and April 30 City Council Meetings

April 28

- Approved a letter of support for SB-1041, Fire Hardening Act of 2026.
- Approved the appointment of Jesse Powell to the Willows Planning Commission for the term ending December 31, 2029.
- Adopted Resolution 14-2026 declaring weeds, rubbish, refuse and dirt public nuisances; and approved the Weed and Rubbish Abatement Schedule for the 2026 fire season.
- Adopted Resolution 15-2026 of intention to levy and collect annual assessments, approving the Preliminary Engineer's Report for FY 2026-27 for the City of Willows Landscaping and Lighting Assessment District, and setting the time and date of the public hearing.
- Directed staff to pursue a Mello-Roos Community Facilities District for Police Department start-up and operational costs, with a Certificate of Participation as a backup financing option.
- Received the presentation from LT Municipal Consultants (LTMC) regarding the City's Proposition 218 Sewer Rate Study and provided direction to staff.
- Approved Resolution 16-2026 adopting a list of projects for fiscal year 2026-27 funded by SB 1: the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017, and recommending the use of SB 1 monies to fund said projects.

April 30

- City Council & Planning Commission participated in a public workshop to update Title 18 of the City of Willows Municipal Code.



Proclamation: National Library Week
Presented to Christine Watson, City Librarian



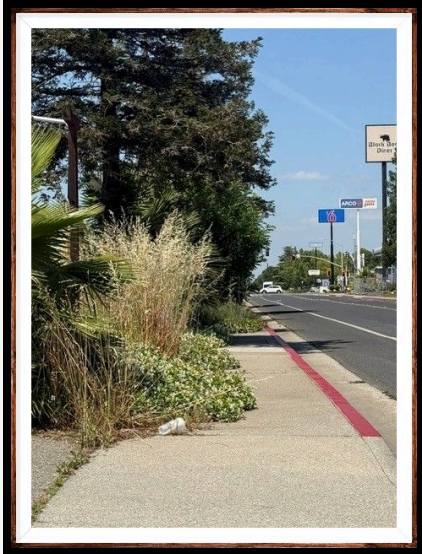
Proclamation: Light the Night for Fallen Firefighters
Presented to Nathan Monck, Fire Chief



Proclamation: Earth Day

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES

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



Code Enforcement Division

200 Block of North Humboldt

The City of Willows recently issued a *Notice of Violation and Order to Abate* the 200 block of North Humboldt Avenue. The notice identifies concerns related to property maintenance, including overgrown vegetation, blocked sidewalks, unsecured areas, and visible signs of neglect.

The City's goal is to achieve voluntary compliance and work cooperatively with the property owner to correct issues. Keeping the property clean, secure, and orderly will help reduce vandalism, trespassing, transient-related impacts, and other nuisance activity in the area.

This case also serves as a reminder that property owners are responsible for securing their buildings, maintaining their property, and keeping sidewalks and pedestrian paths clear and accessible. Prompt attention to these items helps protect neighborhoods, support public safety, and keep Willows looking its best.

Willows Municipal Code Fun Fact:

Did you know that the City of Willows Municipal Code includes regulations designed to protect public health, safety, and neighborhood quality of life? One such section addresses domestic fowl and the responsibility of owners to keep animals properly contained.

Title 6
ANIMALS

[6.05.200 Fowl at large](#)



It shall be unlawful and it is hereby declared to be a nuisance for any person to cause or permit any chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, or other domestic fowl to go or be at large, or to go or be upon the premises owned or occupied by any other person in the city, without such other person's written consent. [Code 1959 § 3.3; prior code § 3-18].

Engineering Division

Civic Center & Library ADA Door and Parking Upgrades

The City of Willows is pleased to share that the Civic Center and Library ADA Door Upgrade Project is moving forward again after grant funding delays. The project is being funded through CDBG Program Income, allowing the City to restart work and continue moving forward these important accessibility improvements.

This project will improve accessibility at the Civic Center and Library by installing automated doors at the Library entrance and at the front and rear City Hall entrances. The project will also update parking stalls at the Library and Civic Center (in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act) and make path-of-travel improvements from the accessible parking stalls to the building entrances to ensure code-compliant access.

Planning Division

Planning Commission Action Roundup

April 7 Planning Commission Meeting

337 North Lassen Street, Manufactured Home

The Planning Commission approved the Conditional Use Permit for the manufactured home at 337 North Lassen Street. This approval is a positive step forward and allows the project to continue through the remaining review and permitting process.

The applicant has been actively working with the City and remains motivated to complete the project. Updated building plans have been resubmitted for review, and the applicant is also working on the encroachment permit needed for utility-related work. This has been a challenging project with many barriers along the way, but the approval of the Conditional Use Permit marks an important and positive step forward.



337 N. Lassen Street



New Planning Commissioner

The City of Willows is pleased to welcome Jesse Powell as its newest member of the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Powell attended her first official meeting during the April 30, 2026, Special Joint Meeting of the City Council and Planning Commission, where members reviewed Title 18 of the Willows Municipal Code (WMC), which addresses zoning and land use regulations within the City.

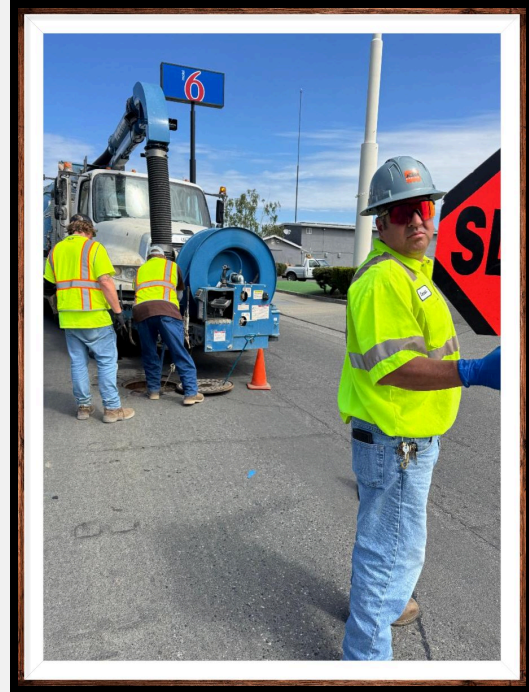
The Planning Commission plays an important role in guiding community development, reviewing land use matters, and helping shape the future growth of Willows. The City looks forward to Commissioner Powell's contributions and service to the community.

Public Works Division

Sewer Main Backup

The City of Willows recently responded to a sewer main clog on North Humboldt Avenue, north of Wood Street. Sewer clogs may be caused by materials that do not break down properly, including wipes, fats, oils, and grease.

The City's vac truck, which is used to clear clogs in the sewer main system, was down for repairs at the time. City staff contacted the City of Orland for assistance, and their team immediately came to help. The City of Willows sincerely thanks the City of Orland for its quick response and partnership.



Residents are reminded not to flush wipes, even those labeled “flushable,” and to keep fats, oils, and grease out of drains. These materials can build up in sewer lines and cause blockages.



New Jensen Park Picnic Tables

The City of Willows extends its appreciation to the Willows Alumni Association and the VFW (Post 1770) for their generous donation of new picnic tables at Jensen Park. The Willows Alumni Association donated funding for two tables, and the VFW donated funding for one table.

Thanks to their support, three new 8-foot ADA-accessible green rubber-coated metal picnic tables were purchased and installed by City staff. These donations help enhance Jensen Park by providing additional accessible seating. The City is grateful for the continued support of local organizations that invest in city parks and community spaces.

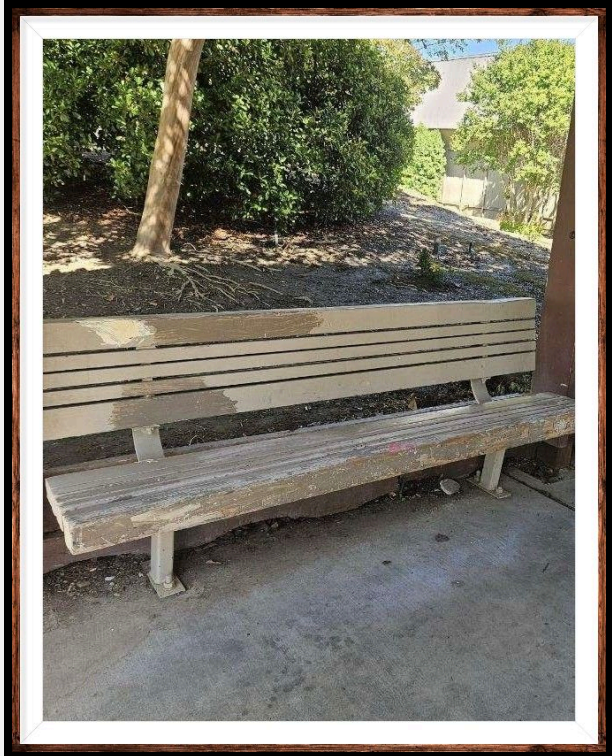
Downtown Mall & Gazebo Area Beautification

The City of Willows Public Works crews have been working in the downtown mall area and around the gazebo to improve and beautify these public spaces in support of downtown businesses, residents, and visitors.

Recent work has included planting new landscaping, trimming hedges and trees, and refreshing benches with new paint. The City would also like to thank Ace Hardware for donating two gallons of paint and providing a discount on additional materials used for this effort. These improvements help keep the downtown corridor clean, welcoming, and attractive.



Landscaping at Mall and Gazebo Area



Bench before beautification



Bench after beautification efforts.

Upcoming Events

Public Works Equipment Showcase & BBQ!

Celebrate Public Works Week and join us for a fun, family-friendly Equipment Showcase & BBQ on Thursday, **May 21**, from **11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** at the Corporation Yard, **400 East Ash Street**.



Meet the Public Works crew and get an up-close look at the vehicles and equipment that help keep the city operational every day.

Highlights include:

- “Touch a Truck” equipment display,
- Meet the Public Works team,
- Free community BBQ lunch for the first 100 attendees, and
- Family-friendly fun for all ages.

Join the City in celebrating the hardworking employees who help keep Willows moving! View the [Event Flyer](#).

Waste Management Community Cleanup Event Scheduled!

Community Clean-Up Day is almost here! Willows residents are encouraged to take advantage of this free disposal opportunity on **June 6, 2026**, from **8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** at **1600 South Tehama Street** (South of the Wastewater Treatment Plant).

This event is provided at no cost to residents through the City’s Waste Management contract and is a great chance to clear out unwanted items while helping keep Willows clean. Accepted items include household garbage, metal furniture, mattresses, and appliances. Please bring a valid I.D. or proof of Willows residency. This is a self-disposal event, so residents must unload their own materials. We hope to see a strong turnout as the community comes together to keep Willows clean, safe, and welcoming.



2025 Community Cleanup Day

Recreation Division

Free Summer Swimming kicks off June 8!

The City of Willows is excited to announce cost-free community swimming will be available this summer at the **Willows High School pool**. The program will run from **June 8, 2026**, through **August 1, 2026**, from **1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**, Monday through Saturday. Please note there will be no pool access on June 12, 15, 18, 22, 25, 26, and 29, and July 2, 6, 9, and 10 due to summer swim camp use.

The summer swim program is offered free of charge and intended to expand recreational opportunities for Willows residents during the summer months.

FREE COMMUNITY SWIMMING

City of Willows Summer Pool Program

Cool off this summer!



June 8, 2026 - August 1, 2026



1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.



Monday through Saturday



Location: Willows High School Pool



Free of charge for the community



No Pool on These Dates:

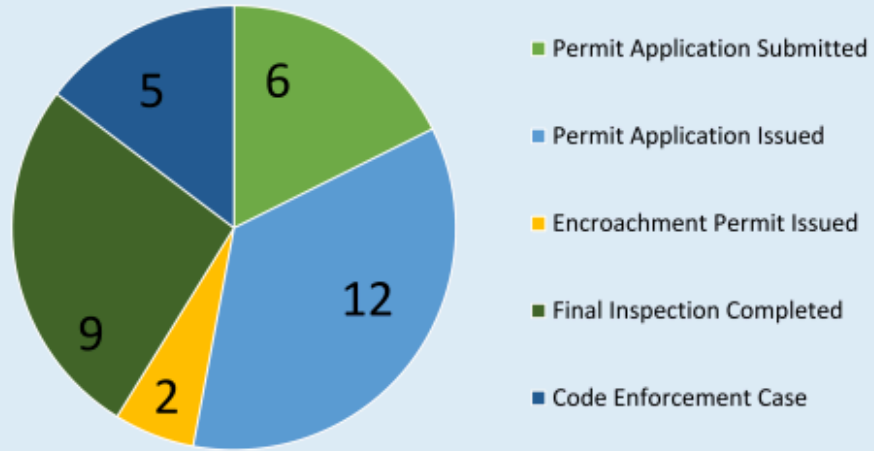
June 12, June 15, June 18, June 22,
June 25, June 26, June 29, July 2,
July 6, July 9, and July 10



Please follow all posted pool rules and enjoy a safe summer.



Community Development Activity April 2026

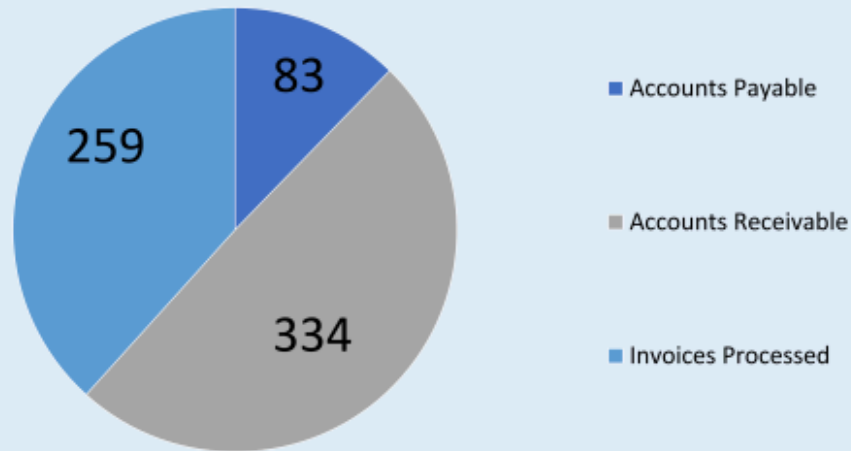


Public Works Division Activity April 2026



FINANCE

Finance Activity April 2026



FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Response, Prevention & Emergency Medical Services

News

Upcoming Seasonal Weather Changes

As temperatures continue to rise, it is important to stay mindful of both hydration and fire safety. Please drink plenty of water throughout the day, especially when working or spending extended time outdoors. Heat-related illnesses can develop quickly during hot weather.

Additionally, dry and windy conditions increase the risk of vegetation fires. Avoid parking vehicles in dry grass, properly dispose of cigarettes, and use extra caution with equipment or activities that could create sparks.

Stay safe, stay hydrated, and help protect our community during the warmer months.

Major Incidents & Emergency Response

Mutual Aid Response to Structure Fire in Orland

On April 3, the Willows Fire Department and Artois Fire Department were dispatched under the departments' Automatic Aid Agreement to assist the Orland Fire Department with a residential structure fire within Orland's jurisdiction.

The Willows Fire Department responded with one engine, one water tender, and one Chief Officer to support firefighting operations at the scene. Upon arrival, Willows firefighters assisted with primary search operations, fire attack efforts, and water supply operations until the incident was brought under control and stabilized.

Automatic Aid Agreements allow neighboring agencies to work together efficiently during emergencies, ensuring resources and personnel are available when needed most. The City appreciates the continued partnership and cooperation between regional fire agencies in protecting the safety of surrounding communities.



Mutual Aid



Mutual Aid

Prevention

Controlled Burns

The Willows Fire Department (WFD) conducted two controlled burns in March to reduce hazardous fuel loads and improve fire safety within the community. One burn took place along the GCID canal near Interstate 5, and the second was conducted at the City's sewer pond.

These controlled burns are an important proactive measure used to remove dry vegetation and other combustible materials that can contribute to the rapid spread of wildfires. By reducing fuel loads in targeted areas, WFD helps decrease fire intensity, improve defensible space, and protect critical infrastructure and surrounding properties.

All burns were carefully planned and conducted under appropriate weather and safety conditions, with personnel monitoring fire behavior to ensure operations remained controlled

and effective. These efforts support the City's ongoing commitment to fire prevention, public safety, and risk reduction.

Annual Hose Testing Completed for 2026

City fire crews recently completed annual hose testing for 2026, including testing of the department's Large Diameter Hoses (LDH), an essential component of fire suppression operations.

Each 100-foot section of 5-inch LDH weighs approximately 100 pounds when dry and nearly 1,000 pounds when filled with water, highlighting the demanding physical work firefighters perform during emergency responses and equipment maintenance. Each Type 1 fire engine and the department's ladder truck carry approximately 1,000 feet of LDH to support high-volume water delivery during structure fires and other large-scale incidents.

Routine hose testing helps ensure all equipment remains safe, reliable, and ready for service when needed most. The City appreciates the dedication and professionalism of fire personnel who work year-round to maintain emergency response readiness for the community.

Training

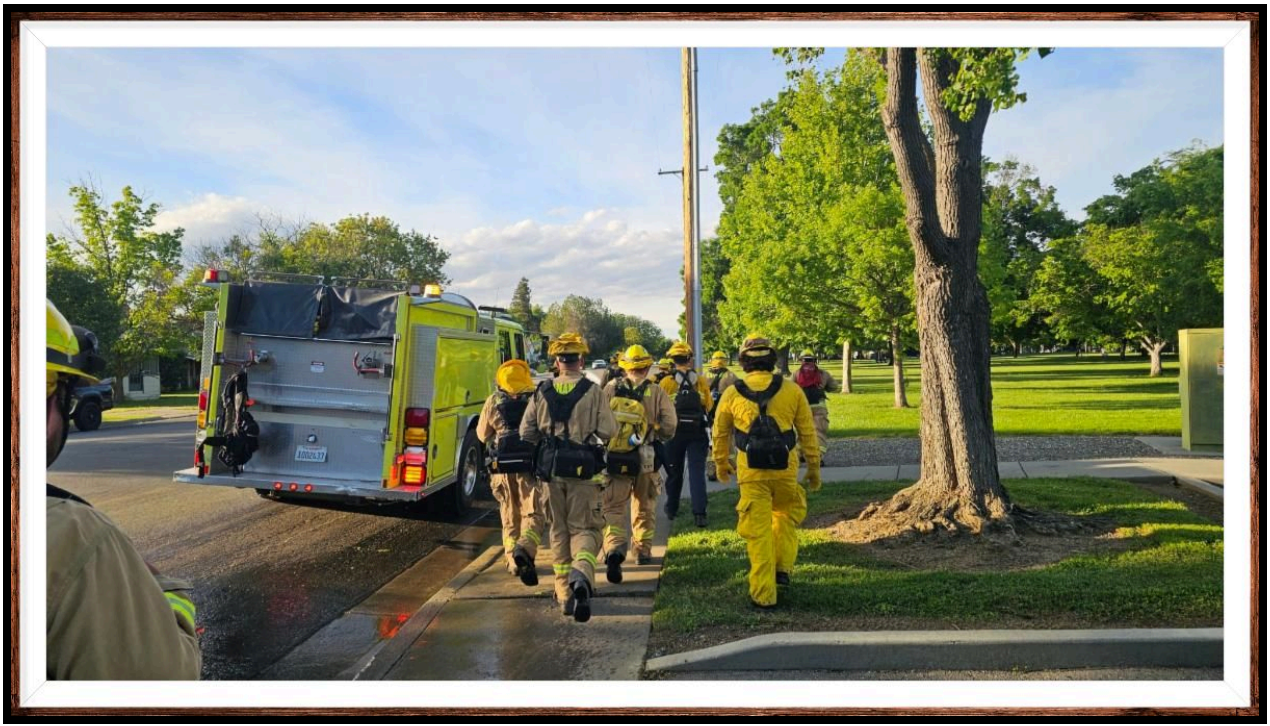
Wildland Fire Refresher Training

During the month of April, the Willows Fire Department completed RT-130 training, the Department's annual wildland firefighting refresher training designed to maintain readiness for the upcoming fire season. The Kanawha Fire Department also participated in the training alongside WFD personnel.

Firefighters received hands-on instruction and classroom training covering a wide range of wildland firefighting topics, including progressive hose lays, mobile fire attack, handline construction, tool safety and maintenance, mobile and portable radio operations, and aircraft safety.

Additional training focused on critical wildfire safety principles such as the 10 Standard Fire Orders, the 18 Watch Out Situations, and LCES (Lookouts, Communications, Escape Routes, and Safety Zones), all of which help firefighters operate safely and effectively during wildland fire incidents.

This annual training ensures firefighters remain prepared, knowledgeable, and equipped to respond to wildland fire emergencies while continuing to protect the community and surrounding areas.



Annual Wildland Firefighting Training

LIBRARY

Library News & Updates

One Book, One Coast Community Reading Program

Willows Public Library invites the community to participate in One Book, One Coast - a regional reading initiative connecting readers across Washington, Oregon, and California through a shared reading experience.

This year's featured title is *They Called Us Enemy* by George Takei, a graphic memoir recounting his experiences as a child during the Japanese American internment of World War II. Unlimited digital access to the book is available through Libby in both English and Spanish through June 6, and the library also has several print copies available for checkout.

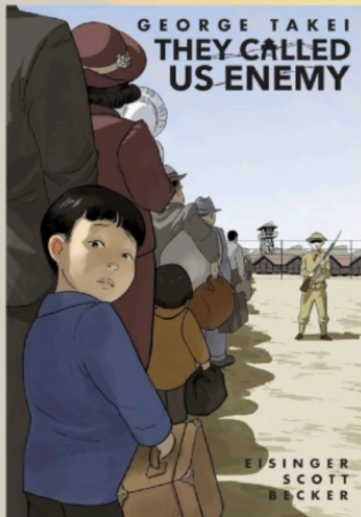
As part of the program, a virtual author talk with **George Takei** will be hosted on Sunday, **May 31**, in collaboration with LA County Library. Community members can learn more about the event by checking out the [One Book, One Coast web page](#).

JOIN THE LARGEST BOOK CLUB ON THE WEST COAST!

Author Talk: May 31st 2-4pm PST

THEY CALLED US ENEMY
GEORGE TAKEI

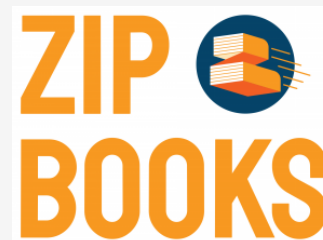
VIRTUAL EVENT



Events & Programs

Zip Books Program Continues Through June

The library still has limited Zip Book grant funding available through the end of June. The Zip Books program allows patrons to request print books and audiobooks not currently available in the library's collection.



Requested materials are shipped directly to patrons' homes for checkout and are then added to the library collection upon return for the entire community to enjoy.

This year, the program has focused on encouraging participation among first-time users, seniors age 65 and older, and Spanish-speaking residents in Willows. Community members interested in requesting titles are encouraged to contact library staff soon while funding remains available.



Summer Reading Program Begins June 9

The 2026 Plant a Seed, Read Summer Reading Program kicks off Tuesday, **June 9**, with a special **Animal Crossing Kickoff Event** featuring games, prizes, and family fun.

The summer program lineup will include a magician, petting zoo, and additional activities designed to encourage reading and learning for participants of all ages throughout the summer months.

The library is also **seeking volunteers to assist with the June 9 event**. Anyone interested in helping is encouraged to contact the library for more information.

Lunch with the Library Returns June 10

The Lunch with the Library Program begins Wednesday, **June 10** at Willows High School from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the gym in conjunction with weekly food distributions to local families. **FREE** books for home libraries and activities for families will be offered each week to encourage reading and nutritional support throughout the summer.

Library Board of Trustees Meeting

The next Library Board meeting will take place on Thursday, **June 11 at 11 a.m.** in the Eubanks Room at the library. All members of the community are encouraged to attend. The audio of the meeting is recorded and shared on the [City's website](#) for those unable to attend in person.

Maker Time Spin Art Event - Inspires!

The library's recent Maker Time Spin Art event brought creativity and hands-on fun to community members of all ages.



Participants enjoyed creating colorful spin art masterpieces while exploring artistic expression in an interactive and engaging environment. The event encouraged creativity, experimentation, and community connection through a simple but exciting art activity.

The library appreciates everyone who attended and helped make the event a fun and memorable experience, and looks forward to offering more Maker Time activities in the future.

Work Together Wednesday at the Library

Willows Public Library recently hosted *Work Together Wednesday* as part of the *Week of the Young Child* celebration in partnership with the Glenn County Office of Education, Child and Family Services.

Families, young learners, and educators enjoyed an afternoon of bee-themed hands-on activities, collaborative learning, and community connection focused on supporting early childhood education and engagement.



Work Together Wednesday

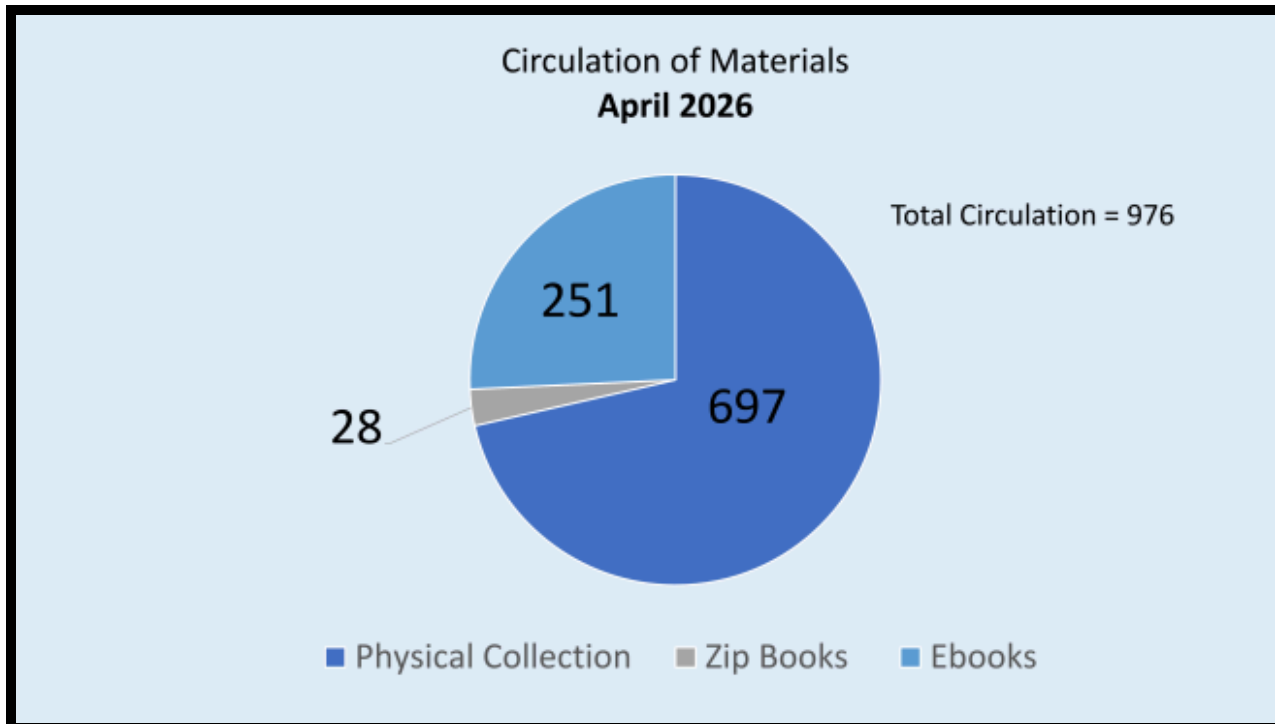


Work Together Wednesday

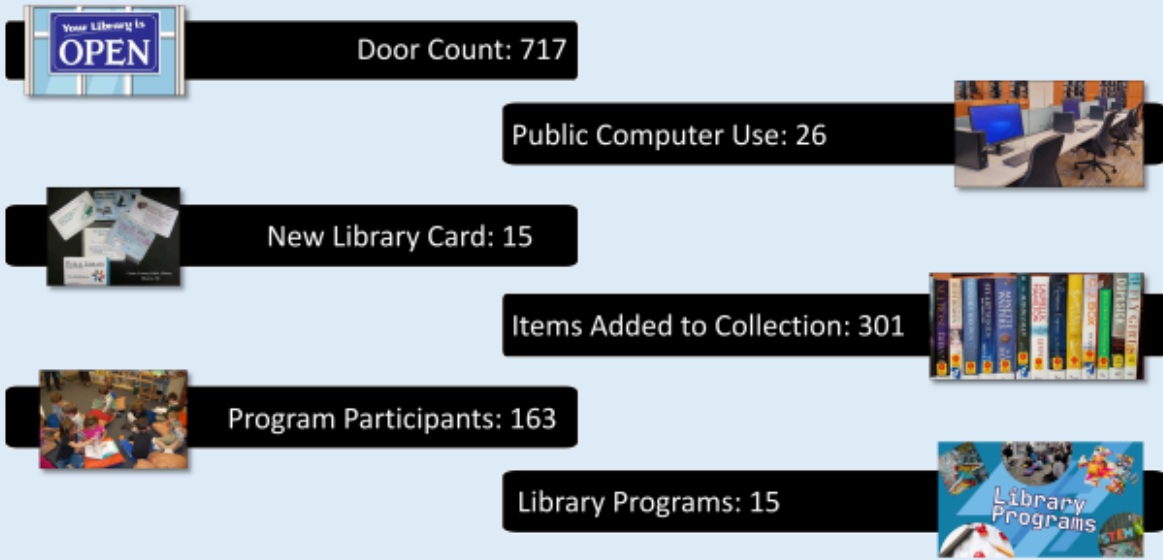
May Calendar

MAY 2026

TUE	WED	THU	FRI
Summer Reading is coming. Sign-up now and start reading Tuesday June 9 th at the kick-off event!			1
5	6 StoryTime @ 2pm "My Mom"	7 Maker Time @ 4pm Mother's Day Gard	8 Movie @ 1pm: Turning Red
12	13 Storytime @ 2pm "Broken"	14 Maker Time @ 4pm Block Party!	15
19	20 Storytime @ 2pm "My First Day"	21 Maker Time @ 4pm Bubble Bonanza	22
25	26 Storytime @ 2pm "After the Fall: How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again"	27 Maker Time @4pm Puzzlepaloosa	28

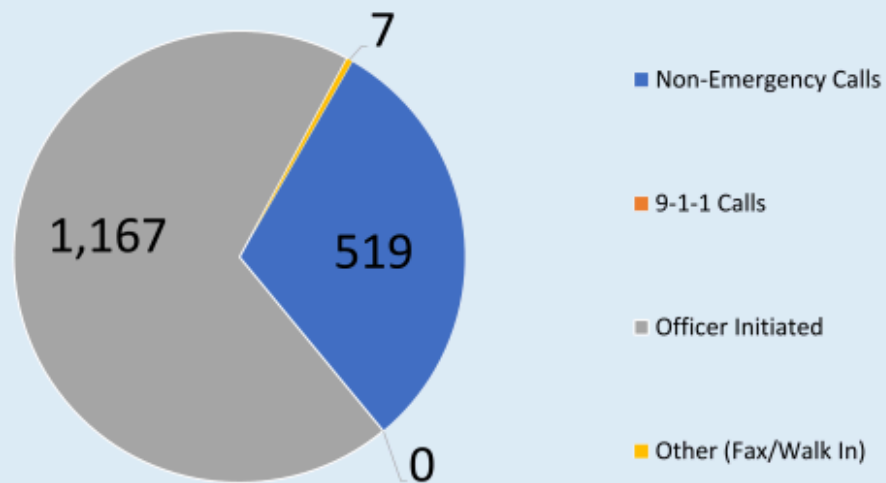


Library Activity April 2026

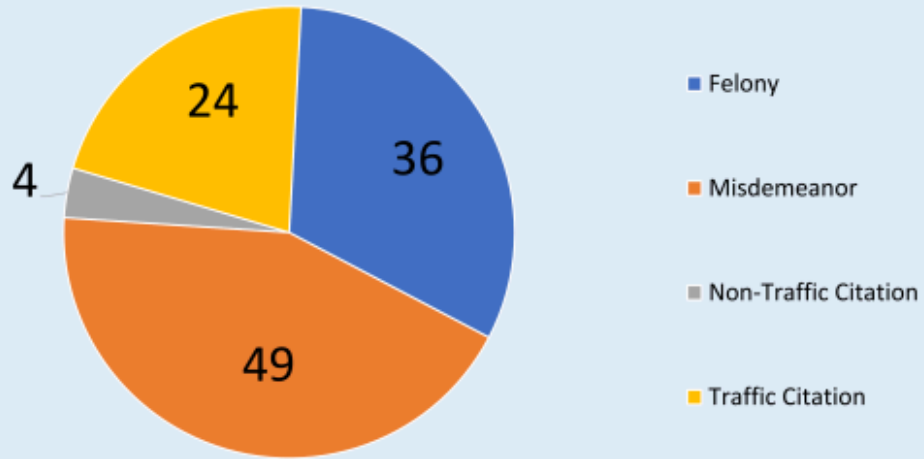


SHERIFF

Sheriff Department Activity – Calls for Service January - April 2026



Sheriff Department Activity – Arrests & Citations
January - April 2026




City of Willows


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Willows, CA 95988
(530) 934-7041



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