



# THE WILLIS INFORMER

**NEWSLETTER** "Dedicated to informing and connecting the Willis community"



## UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

### Meeting Time

5:30 p.m.

### Location

Willis City Hall  
Council Chambers  
200 N. Bell St., Willis, TX 77378  
(936) 856-4611

### December

Tuesday, Dec. 16

### January

Tuesday, Jan. 20

## Holiday Office Closings

In observance the following holidays, the City of Willis administrative offices will be closed on these dates:



**Wednesday  
Dec. 24**

**Thursday  
Dec. 25**



**Thursday  
Jan. 1**

## MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY



**Monday  
Jan. 19**

Life's most persistent and urgent question is, "What are you doing for others?"

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

## HERE COMES THE CHRISTMAS PARADE - SATURDAY, DEC. 13 @ 10 A.M.



Come experience a beloved holiday tradition as the annual Willis Christmas Parade bursts into motion with festive cheer, colorful floats, favorite Christmas characters, and joyful holiday music. You won't want to miss this spirited community celebration!

This year's parade theme is "Oh What Fun!" The procession begins at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 13, with Dr. Kimberley James, Superintendent of Willis ISD, serving as the 2025 Grand Marshal.

Entries will be judged on creativity, unique design, and enthusiasm by a panel of judges stationed along the parade route at Stewart and S. Danville Street. Grand prizes will be awarded in multiple categories.

## PARADE ROUTE

Spectators are encouraged to choose their viewing spots along the parade route as follows:

The parade will begin traveling eastbound at Thomason Street and Rogers Street, then turn right (eastbound) onto East Marlin Street. From there, the procession will turn right (southbound) onto South Danville Street, followed by another right (westbound) onto Mink Street. The parade will conclude at the Willis Community Center, located at 109 W. Mink Street, Willis, TX 77378.



## CHRISTMAS MOVIE NIGHT - FRIDAY, DEC. 12 @ 6:30 P.M.

Enjoy a special viewing of the holiday classic Elf at Mink St. Park (305 S. Danville St.) on Friday, Dec. 12, at 6:30 p.m. Bring blankets and lawn chairs for seating. Grace Church Willis ([gracechurch.org](http://gracechurch.org)) will be serving free hot chocolate, and there will also be free holiday cookies and a food truck on-site. Admission is free!



### MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Dear Residents,

Over the last six months, I've had the honor of serving as your Mayor, and every day has reminded me why I love this city and the people who call it home. When I stepped into this role, my heart was set on bringing fresh energy, accountability, and a renewed sense of pride to Willis and together, we've started to do just that.

We've made progress that's both visible and meaningful. Roads that were long overdue for repair are being restored. We've broken ground on major infrastructure projects to make our city safer and more accessible. We're preparing to relocate City Hall and our Police Department, and we're building a new animal shelter that reflects the care and compassion of our community.

But just as important as the projects are the partnerships. I've worked hard to strengthen relationships with our local businesses, churches, schools, and community organizations because I believe real progress happens when we're all connected and working toward the same goal. A stronger Willis depends on unity and collaboration, and I've seen that spirit growing throughout our city.

Looking ahead, I'm focused on continuing to beautify our streets, revitalize our downtown, and make Willis a place where opportunity meets community. My commitment to you is to keep leading with transparency, to listen to your concerns, and to make decisions that move us forward together.

Thank you for believing in the vision. The best days for the City of Willis are still ahead and we're building them, one project, one partnership, and one neighbor at a time.

William Brown  
Mayor of Willis, TX

### WATER UTILITY SERVICES UPDATE NEW BILLING SYSTEM IN PLACE



### NOTICE TO UTILITY CUSTOMERS



As the City of Willis upgraded to a new billing system, online payments were temporarily unavailable on Nov. 10, 2025.

Please note: December bills may be smaller, and January bills may be slightly larger than usual as we return to the regular cycle.

Thank you for your patience as we enhance our services and improve your customer experience.

### APPLAUSE

### Veteran Det. Dusty Bryant Earns Promotion



Det. Dusty Bryant was officially sworn in and promoted from Detective to Lieutenant with the Willis Police Department during the Oct. 21, 2025, Willis City Council Meeting. Lt. Bryant brings 20 years of law enforcement experience to his new role. Before joining the City of Willis, he served communities in the Northeast Texas region.

*"Committed, consistent, and driven, Lt. Bryant exemplifies the heart of public service in protecting our community."*

*-Willis Police Chief Brandal Jackson*



### Lt. Nelson Retires After Years of Service

The City of Willis proudly recognized Lt. Alton Nelson for 25 years of dedicated service to the Willis Police Department and Willis community on October 27, 2025.

### WILLIS LEADERS ATTENDED TML CONFERENCE IN FORT WORTH, TX, OCT. 29-31, 2025



The Texas Municipal League (TML) conference was a platform for strategizing on local governance issues. Willis attendees: Mayor, City Council, City Administrator, and the Community Development Corporation Board.

# STREET DEPARTMENT UPDATE ALL ROADS LEAD TO INFRASTRUCTURE...



With the city’s growing population and ongoing development projects, it is essential for Willis to invest in upgrading its road infrastructure to accommodate the increase in traffic that comes with this expansion. Below is an overview of the street improvement projects scheduled to take place in the coming months through their completion.

**Powell Street.** The City is working on the widening of Powell Street from South Campbell to the western end. This project involved the transfer of water services along this portion of Powell Street to the existing 12-inch water line to help with water pressure for the residents. The project also included replacing the existing roadway with a 22’ wide surface. The project is scheduled for completion in December, 2025. (See images to the right.)

**Second Street Improvements.** The City started this project to replace the very worn out Second Street. The existing road surface was failing and was barely 12’ wide. The new roadway will be 22’ wide with improved turn-around area at the western end. The City also installed a new 4” waterline for the residents on Second Street to improve water pressure. Second Street is scheduled for completion in December 2025. (See images below.)



**Second Street**

*“Through careful assessment and coordination, we are improving traffic flow and safety for our residents while enhancing the overall look and character of our city.”*

**-Willis City Manager Sheyi Ipaye, CPM**



**Cargil Street**

**Cargil Street** is an industrial type street located on US 75 near the south side of the City. This street sees considerable heavy industrial type traffic and was in extremely poor condition. The City has replaced the existing roadway to help improve access to those businesses. The new roadway is 22’ wide, and the project is scheduled for completion in December 2025.

**Church Street.** This project involves the replacement and widening of the roadway. The current roadway is 11’ wide, and the new surface will be 20’ wide. The City is also installing a cul-d-sac at the northern end to facilitate turnarounds. The project is scheduled for completion in December 2025.



**Church Street looking south**



**Church Street cul-d-sac**

## Powell Street



**Powell Street looking west**



**Powell Street looking east from cul-d-sac**

**First Street** was recently connected to the Moran Ranch Development; however, the existing portion of the street was narrow. The City has replaced and widened the roadway from 12’ to 22’ to make it safer. First Street is scheduled for completion in December, 2025.



**First Street**

## NEW WILLIS CITY HALL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



### 501 W. Montgomery Rd.

Remodeling and construction at the new City Hall location are progressing on schedule. Stay tuned for future progress updates!

**BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT**

**THE TALE OF 5 GROCERS**

**1923**



**A GROWING CITY AND EVOLVING INDUSTRY**  
The oldest known grocery store in Willis, TX, was located at the intersection of U.S. Hwy 75 and FM 1097. Built in 1923 by Charles Johnson, the structure housed a service station and grocery store. The building was constructed for \$17—\$11 for bricks and \$6 for labor.

Track the industry's progress as it reflects the Willis community's evolving needs.

**1950**



Wise Grocery & Hardware Inc., family-owned. Offers groceries and hardware supplies.

**2009**



Willis Supermarket, family-owned. Offers staple groceries and specializes in Hispanic foods.

**2011**



Kroger first major chain grocery store in the city.

**2022**



H-E-B is the newest major chain grocery store in the city.

GROCERS HAVE EXPANDED INTO FULL-SERVICE CENTERS, OFFERING STAPLE AND SPECIALTY FOODS, FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS, FUEL, BILL PAYMENT, FRESH BAKERIES AND DELIS, SEAFOOD, PHARMACY CARE, AND CONVENIENT ONLINE AND DELIVERY OPTIONS

**COMBINED: LOCAL GROCERS EMPLOY APPROX. 1,050 PEOPLE IN WILLIS, TX**

Business owners get ready. A monthly drawing will occur on the first day of each month to determine which business(es) will be featured in the Business Spotlight segment of *The Willis Informer*. To enter the drawing, email business name, address, contact name and number to [jmadden@willistx.gov](mailto:jmadden@willistx.gov).

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**4th Quarter**

Certificate of Completion Issued  
**October 2025**  
Industry: Business Park  
Now Leasing



120 Corporate Drive, Willis, TX

**Willis Business Park**

Willis Business Park is a modern commercial development located along the rapidly expanding Highway 75 corridor. The complex offers four 5,000 sq. ft. flex/industrial buildings that can be leased whole or divided into 2,500 sq. ft. units, along with a retail center featuring spaces from 1,500 to 3,000 sq. ft. — that can be used for retail, showroom, fitness, or contractor use. There is an additional 16 acres available for custom build-to-suit prospects.

*The Willis Informer* is a bi-monthly newsletter sharing highlights, project updates, and community news. It does not feature paid advertisements or time-sensitive announcements. Visit [www.willistx.gov](http://www.willistx.gov) to view a digital copy. Send inquiries or comments to [jmadden@willistx.gov](mailto:jmadden@willistx.gov) or call (936)827-1086.

**2025 HALLOWEEN MOVIE NIGHT**



Mayor Brown & Contest Judges congratulate costume contest winners

**SPECIAL THANKS TO WILLIS BUSINESS SPONSORS**



**Costume Contest Sponsor**



9862 FM 1097 Rd W  
(936) 272-6212



**Hospitality Sponsors**



815 Montgomery  
(936) 890-1289

**Willis Supermarket**  
504 S. Danville St.  
(936) 856-4587

JOIN R.F. MEADOR LIBRARY FOR A

**FAMILY Open House**

DEC 4 4:30PM

[countylibrary.org](http://countylibrary.org)



**THE ONLY VETERAN ORGANIZATION IN WILLIS**

**Local Chapter**

The American Legion Post 618  
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 618  
Sons of the American Legion 618  
Honor Guard 618

**Address**

13054 E. FM 1097 Rd. Willis, TX 77378

**Email**

[post.618.webmaster@outlook.com](mailto:post.618.webmaster@outlook.com)

**Telephone**

(936) 856-5224

**Website / Look Up Events Here**

[www.txlegionpost618.org](http://www.txlegionpost618.org)



**SHOP LOCAL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON**

"When you purchase from a local business, you're not just buying a product; you're investing in a person's dream."