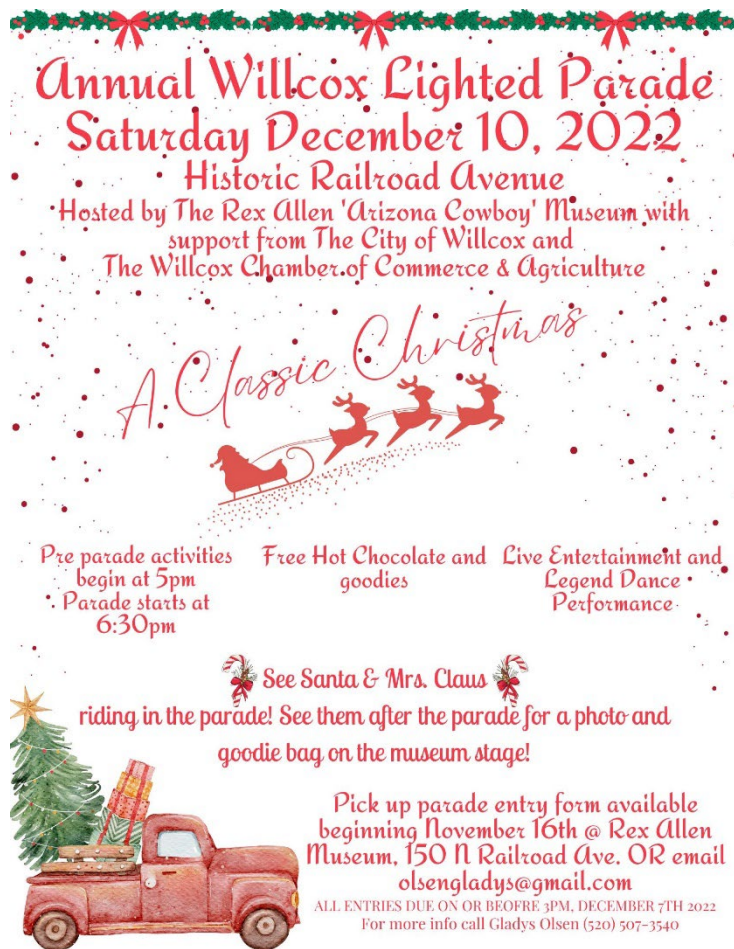


## GENERAL INFORMATION

### November 2022

#### Notable Items:

- Downtown Christmas Lights
  - o City staff have installed Christmas lights on Railroad Avenue and Haskell Avenue. The Willcox Christmas Parade will be held on December 10 along with a Christmas tree lighting by the Mayor and City Council at 5:00 pm.




**Annual Willcox Lighted Parade**  
**Saturday December 10, 2022**  
 Historic Railroad Avenue  
 Hosted by The Rex Allen 'Arizona Cowboy' Museum with support from The City of Willcox and The Willcox Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture

*A Classic Christmas*

Pre parade activities begin at 5pm  
 Free Hot Chocolate and goodies  
 Live Entertainment and Legend Dance Performance  
 Parade starts at 6:30pm

See Santa & Mrs. Claus riding in the parade! See them after the parade for a photo and goodie bag on the museum stage!

Pick up parade entry form available beginning November 16th @ Rex Allen Museum, 150 N Railroad Ave. OR email [olsengladys@gmail.com](mailto:olsengladys@gmail.com)  
 ALL ENTRIES DUE ON OR BEFORE 3PM, DECEMBER 7TH 2022  
 For more info call Gladys Olsen (520) 507-3540




## GENERAL INFORMATION

### November 2022

- Jail District
  - Cochise County Supervisors voted to move forward with a Jail District by implementing .5% sales tax increase throughout Cochise County. Mayor Laws, Councilmember Sheets and Hancock attended the County Board meeting where Mayor Laws vocally supported the building of a new jail facility but opposed a higher sales tax. Mayor Laws stated that cities in Cochise County need to have an opportunity to be involved and speak with legislative members to acquire additional funding to lessen the burden on our residents and businesses. Attached is a letter that was shared on behalf of Willcox.
  
- Library Mural:
  - The Willcox Library mural has been completed and the remainder of the library is in the process of being painted. When the painting is complete, a celebration will be held in coordination with the Willcox Arts Commission.
  
- Loves Travel Stop:
  - Construction for Love's Travel Stop has begun. The estimated project completion date is June 2023. Arby's will be a new restaurant located inside of the store.





## GENERAL INFORMATION November 2022

- **LED Lighting:**
  - o Installation of new poles and lighting has begun by Qualite Construction. New LED lights will be at Keiller Park, Quail Park, and the Arena. The LED lights are expected to use 60-80% less than the existing system. The City spends an estimated \$75,000 each year at parks for lighting. The payback period is expected to be 5-6 years because 50% of the cost is provided by the Arizona State Parks grant. A ribbon cutting will occur at the completion of installation expected mid-December.

### Upcoming Meetings and Agenda Items:

- December 1: Swearing Ceremony for Newly Elected Councilmembers/Election of the Mayor and Vice-Mayor/Public Hearing and Ordinance for Cemetery Fees/Arena Contract Approval
- December 15: Quail Park Fencing Contract Approval/ Keiller Park Restroom Contract Approval/

### Upcoming Events:

- Christmas Parade – December 10
- City Christmas Employee Party – Elks Lodge, Thursday December 15
- Christmas Holiday – City Offices Closed Thursday, December 22
- New Years Holiday – City Offices closed Thursday, December 29

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Willcox City Manager, Caleb Blaschke

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Caleb Blaschke", written in a cursive style.



## Statement from Willcox

November 15, 2022

Supervisors Crosby, English, and Judd,

Although we are in support of the building of a new jail facility, on behalf of the City of Willcox residents and businesses, we must oppose an increase of a .50 percent (one-half cent) sales tax to fund construction and operations of the facility.

The increase in sales tax would disproportionately impact our community and put local businesses at risk. Willcox is located within a short travel distance to commercial centers in Thatcher and Safford. To remain competitive with those business, products sold in northern Cochise County need to be priced and taxed to compete with those locations. With an economy based in agricultural business, we must be mindful of the tax comparisons to products sold by competing Safford and Thatcher businesses. With a median income far below the federal poverty limit, residents and business owners survive by getting the best value for their dollar and understand that if they can save a percent or more on fencing, equipment, building materials and supplies the short travel time provides an affordable option.

The City has considered increasing the sales tax to fund dilapidated infrastructure and improve community amenities such as our parks. However, we know that doing so would put an economic hardship on our residents and businesses. Even with our limited tax, we have found a way to provide quality amenities and services. The City also provides these services to Cochise County residents.

Willcox provides services to Cochise County residents without the shared tax revenue. Local county residents rely on Willcox for fire, police response, transit, library, parks and recreation, cemetery, and road services. In some instances, 50% or more of services provided and funded by the city are being utilized by Cochise County residents because the county is unable to provide adequate services over its vast area.

From an economic development standpoint, higher taxes are not a tool to be used to attract new businesses. These funds would be better spent improving the quality of life in our community and improving the infrastructure to attract businesses and employees that could grow the sales tax base. In addition, according to the United States Census, Cochise County lost a larger percentage of its population last year than any other county in the country. Again, further burdening our residents and potential businesses with a tax will not help grow our area.

We do support improving the jail, but believe other avenues need to be pursued first. Our cities along with Cochise County need to work together to find alternative funding. We would like to recommend forming a coalition to speak with the State Representatives as well as Senators Kelly and Sinema. Much of the crime that occurs in Willcox and throughout Cochise County is a result of our residents being straddled by Interstate 10 and U.S. Mexico border.

We hope Cochise County will consider and pursue other alternatives to paying for a new jail and involve our cities in creating partnerships and in obtaining funding. On behalf of Willcox, thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Mayor Laws and the Willcox City Council