# COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING REPORT

DEC 2023 // PREPARED BY ROSE HOFFMAN

#### LONG-TERM FOCUS



We pride ourselves on providing high quality services to our residents, from water and wastewater services to planning, development, and communications. You'll find information in this booklet that will hopefully answer most of your utility billing and other questions, but if you need more, you can visit <u>willowpark.org</u>, you'll also find information here about how to connect with city news services so you can stay up to date with both emergency and other time-sensitive, important information.

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It is our pleasure to welcome you to our community.

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There are multiple ways to get information about city news, events, and emergencies. We recommend ALL residents and pusinesses register for both systems listed below, as well as follow us on social media - listed on the next page.

EMERGENCY ALERTS

The City of Willow Park uses the AlertSense system for weather mergencies, public safety emergencies, and public works events such as a water shut off for repairs. This system offers our community the option to receive phone calls, emails, and/or text messages. Sign up here or visit https://public.alertsense.com/SignUp

#### CITY NEWS



Sign up via our website to receive email notifications on city business like utility rate changes, events, road closures, and other important issues. This is also how to receive the city's monthly newsletter. https://www.willowparktx.gov/subscribe

## GOAL: REACHING UNREACHED AUDIENCES

One of the clearly identified opportunities in the communication's department strategic plan was that our traditional channels - both legacy and digital - were not reaching parts of our community.

A clearly defined weakness was getting information to new residents - particularly those in multi-family dwellings who do not come into city hall to make contact with city staff upon their arrival.

To that end, the communications department has created a "New Resident Guide" which is now being distributed to all newcomers who apply for utility service, and we are also partnering with the townhome and apartment complexes to have these booklets distributed to their incoming tenants.

We hope to continue this campaign to include distribution of printed materials to existing residents that can be used as reference for frequently asked questions.

#### RECENT DATA (AUG-NOV 2023)

Engagement and numbers continue to grow for the city's Facebook accounts, as well as our relatively new NextDoor and Instagram accounts.

In April 2023, the city changed the name on the Fire Department Facebook account to read "Willow Park Fire Marshal/Emergency Management" and due to decreased engagement, plans are in place to merge that account with the official city hall account.

The police department Facebook page continues to get excellent reach and engagement and has become a strong tool for both public safety messaging and community policing.

All city X (Twitter) accounts have been archived at this time.





Nextdoor reach 6,199 Average post reach 269

City of Willow Park 2,699 members 1,518 claimed households 10 neighborhoods

## Social media OVERVIEW

#### FALL 2023

This fall, the COWP co-hosted National Night Out with the Willow Park Police Department, participated in a 9/11 memorial at The Shops, hosted a ribbon cutting for the new water facility, and held the second annual Christmas Tree lighting on the new City Hall grounds.

The communications department is reviewing plans for events in 2024 and will be announcing the date for the Third Annual Willow Bark festival in January.







# Event and outreach HIGHLIGHTS

### 2024 WINTER/SPRING GOALS

- Work with other
  departments to make
  website updates and
  improvements
- 2.Expand Willow Bark event and related campaigns
- 3.Continue training in emergency comms and messaging; begin work on a crisis communication plan
- 4. Work with community partners to include more outreach at non-city events

