



CITYLIMITS **AUG** 2024



MEET SOME RARE BIRDS IN WACO

Believe it

Join Us for the Grand Opening of Penguin Shores

The City of Waco and Cameron Park Zoo are thrilled to announce the grand opening of the Gloria and F.M. Young Penguin Shores Exhibit on Thursday, August 8. The \$12.8 million state-of-the-art habitat will welcome the largest

colony of endangered South African penguins in Texas. Penguin Shores features a pool and rock structure for the penguins, an exhibit area for black-footed cats, canopies, a shaded plaza, and South African-inspired murals.

Standing between 24 and 28 inches tall and weighing from 4.9 and 11 pounds,



African black-footed penguins are adorned with distinctive black stripes and spots on their chest. Monogamous by nature, these penguins display remarkable parental dedication. Both male and female take turns incubating their eggs until hatched, and one parent remains vigilant over the chicks for about a month before they join other chicks.

These charming creatures are classified as endangered, and without immediate intervention, could go extinct by 2035. Cameron Park Zoo, with the help of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums, is providing a safe haven for the penguins and hoping to inspire conservation efforts through awareness, solidarity, and education.

Join us on Thursday, August 8 for the grand opening and witness the wonder of the South African penguins as they embark on a new chapter at Cameron Park Zoo. To learn more, visit waco-texas.com/penguinshores.



Coming Soon

In addition to Penguin Shores, Cameron Park Zoo will also open the Carol Schmidhauser Veterinary Hospital and Education Center in September. Check back in the September issue to learn more.



Waddle to Waco

A Journey to Cameron Park Zoo

Join our little penguin friend as he pops up around town while making his way to Cameron Park Zoo to join the other South African penguins at our new Gloria and F.M. Young Penguin Shores Exhibit!

Waco Transit dropped him off at the Waco Suspension Bridge earlier this summer, and he's made his way to other iconic Waco destinations. Where do you think he'll show up next? Follow his journey leading up to the grand opening at waco-texas.com/waddletowaco.



#WADDLETOWACO



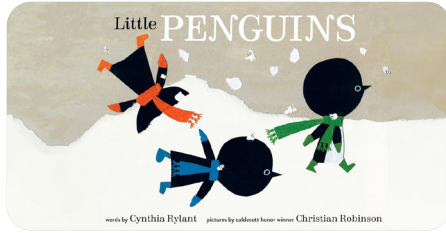
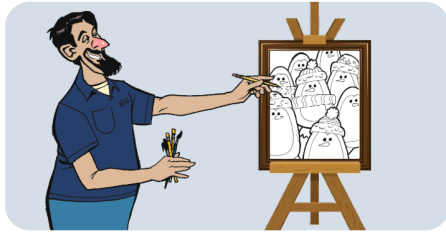
Waco City Council Update

George Chase Sworn in to City Council

On Tuesday, June 18, George Chase was sworn in to fill the unexpired term for the District V City Council seat. Chase was selected after an interview process among 14 candidates, and he will serve on City Council until the next City of Waco general election on May 3, 2025. A native of Waco, Chase currently serves as president of Insurors of Texas. Learn more at waco-texas.com/citycouncil.



Penguins on the March at Your Local Waco-McLennan County Library



Let's Draw Class

Join Waco Library in celebrating the grand opening of the Penguin Shores Exhibit at Cameron Park Zoo with a special Let's Draw class! Kids ages 6 to 11 are invited to unleash their creativity. The class be held at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 15 at the South Waco Library.

On land, a group of penguins is called a colony, a huddle, or a rookery. On the water, they are called rafts! Artists will learn how to layer subjects in a composition drawing to create a charming huddle of penguins. It's a wonderful opportunity for budding artists to explore their talents while celebrating these fascinating creatures.



Penguin Storytimes

Waco Library will also be hosting a special week of penguin-themed storytimes. From August 19 to 22, the children's librarians will be reading penguin books, doing penguin crafts, and using penguin puppets for even more chances to celebrate penguins coming to Waco. Visit wacolibrary.org to see the online calendar for all storytime times and locations.

Plus, don't miss a special storytime at Cameron Park Zoo at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, August 23. Visit any Waco Library location that week to pick up a special penguin coloring page to decorate and bring as your free admission ticket.



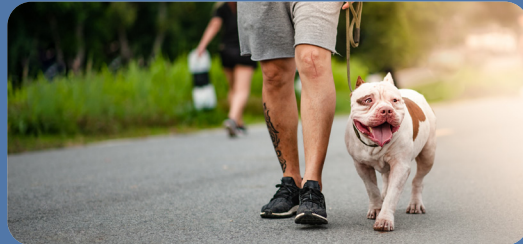
Tax Free Weekend Ride Waco Transit Fare Free



To celebrate tax-free weekend, Waco Transit System is offering Free Fare Day on Saturday, August 10th. This promotion allows passengers to ride all fixed-route buses for free, providing a convenient and cost-effective way to explore Waco's top shopping destinations and avoid the hassle of parking. To plan your bus route, visit waco-texas.com/transit or using the free Ride Systems app.



Let's Make This a Safe Summer!



Beat the Texas Heat

- Drink water often. Don't wait until you're thirsty.
- Avoid unnecessary work and activities outside or in buildings without air conditioning.
- Wear light, loose-fitting clothes.
- Stay in an air conditioned area. Air conditioning is the best protective factor against heat-related illnesses.
- Check in on your friends, family, and neighbors during heat waves.

Protect Your Pets From Heat

Please be mindful of the weather when you walk your pets. The pads of your dog's feet are extremely sensitive to heat. We recommend walking your pets early in the morning before sidewalks heat up. Remember, it's illegal to leave dogs outside in inadequate conditions without shelter, shade, and water.

Report animal issues to Animal Control at (254) 750-1765 during business hours or to the Police Department at (254) 750-7500. Learn more at waco-texas.com/animals.



Get Ready for Back to School Stay Up to Date on Vaccines



Before school starts, make sure your child's vaccines are up to date. The immunization clinic at Waco-McLennan Public Health offers all recommended vaccines for children and adults. July and August are busy months, so wait times may be longer. Schedule your appointment from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The clinic accepts most insurance. To learn more, visit waco-texas.com/vaccines or call (254) 750-5450.



After-School Programs

Registration opens August 1 for after-school care at the Doris Miller, Dewey, and South Waco Community Centers. The after-school programs are held Monday through Friday for kids ages 5 to 13. Space is limited, so sign up today! To register and learn more, visit waco-texas.com/parksandrec or contact the community centers.



- Dewey: (254) 750-8677
- Doris Miller: (254) 750-1956
- South Waco: (254) 750-8650



Donate Fans Cool the Heat Program



The Waco Fire Department is bringing back their Cool the Heat program for the summer season. Donate a new in-box fan at your nearest fire station. Our program partners, Mission Waco, will distribute the fans to local individuals and families who need them most. For more information, contact Fire Administration at (254) 750-1740 or visit waco-texas.com/cooltheheat.



New Water Restrictions

5-Year Water Conservation Plan



The new three-day watering schedule started **July 1** for Waco residents and businesses. The new schedule is part of Waco City Council's five-year water conservation plan to prepare for future water needs. We're fortunate that (as of mid June) Lake Waco is full. However, in Texas, the next drought could be around the corner. To learn more, visit waco-texas.com/waterconservation.

SCHEDULE

Odd-numbered addresses: Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday
Even-numbered addresses: Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday
No outdoor watering on Fridays
No outdoor watering between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.



Waco Fire Department Citizen's Fire Academy



The Waco Fire Department is excited to host its fourth annual Citizen's Fire Academy! McLennan County residents (18 years old and up) are invited to join us to learn about being a firefighter through classroom instructions and hands-on demonstrations. The academy will be held on Thursdays from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. from September 5 through October 4. Class space is limited to 25 participants. Applications will open on Monday, August 1. Apply online at waco-texas.com/CFA.



In Case You Missed It: 2024 Waco City Academy Graduation



Congratulations to our Waco City Academy graduates! Graduates participated in ten weekly sessions learning about civic engagement and local government. Each night featured different City of Waco departments showcasing the day-to-day of running a local government. The application for the 2025 class of Waco City Academy will be available in January. To learn more, visit waco-texas.com/cityacademy.



GRADUATES

- | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Kristi Carlile | Kaitlyn Hatfield | Isaac Liu | Julia Smith |
| B. Diane Childers | Michael Heilig | Tasmin McDonald | Mike Ward |
| Frances Dalton | Robbin Heilig | Russell Mejia | Cinco Winston |
| Mike Gallagher | Kianna Hines | Keshia Miller | Tony Wommack |
| Stephanie Gunn | Isis Lewis | Pattie Orr | |

Waco Police Department Citizen's Police Academy



McLennan County residents (18 years old and up) are invited to join the Waco Police Department to learn about being a police officer through classroom instructions and hands-on demonstrations. The academy is a 12-week course starting on August 22 and will be held on Thursday nights from 6 to 8 p.m. Applicants will need to complete a background check. The application deadline is Friday, August 16. Apply online at waco-texas.com/CPA.



Apply for Waco Youth Council Become a City of Waco Ambassador



The City of Waco is seeking dedicated and enthusiastic teens to join the 2024-2025 Waco Youth Council. Waco Youth Council members play an active role in addressing community issues, participate in community service initiatives, and serve as an advocate for fellow youth.

Students must be a Waco resident and entering or attending 9th to 12th grade this fall at either a public, private, or home school. The deadline to apply is Friday, August 30. Apply online at waco-texas.com/youthcouncil.



Support Victims of Crime Apply Now: Victim Services Volunteers



The Waco Police Department is accepting applications for volunteers to provide assistance and support to victims of crime. The Victim Services Unit relies heavily on its volunteers. To become a Victim Services Volunteer, apply today at waco-texas.com/victimservices or contact the volunteer coordinator, Missy "Sparky" Sparks, at (254) 750-7527 or mspark@wacotx.gov.



Cans, Cardboard, and Community: Waco Recycling Stats

Thank You for Making Waco a Cleaner and Greener Community!

Thanks to your recycling efforts, Waco has recycled **1,466 tons of material** from January to May 2024 alone. That's a significant contribution to keeping our city clean and green! Here's what your recycling power translates to in real-world terms:



4,396 cubic yards of space saved in our landfills. That's enough space to fill over three and a half football fields.

15,139 trees saved reducing the need to cut down more trees.

24,970 gallons of oil saved from using recycled material rather than creating new products from scratch with crude oil.

RECYCLABLES

- #1 Plastics (clear plastics, including water and soda bottles, and some food packaging)
- #2 Plastics (more opaque plastics, including milk jugs, detergent bottles, cosmetics, or household cleaner bottles)
- Mixed Paper (newspaper, junk mail, phone books, and magazines)
- Clean Cardboard
- Aluminum, tin, and cans

DO NOT RECYCLE

- Plastic Bags
- Glass Bottles
- Milk/Juice Cartons
- Styrofoam
- Aluminum Foil
- Textiles (clothes)
- Food Waste
- Greasy cardboard

HOW CAN I RECYCLE?

- Toss loose, unbagged recyclables in your blue cart.
- Blue recycling carts are collected every other week on your collection day.
- Cobbs Recycling Center, 4201 Trice Avenue, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mon. to Sat.

REMINDER!
Putting non-recyclable items in the recycling bin can ruin the whole cart!

waco-texas.com/solidwaste
Download the Curbside Services App



University Parks Drive Now Reopened

Construction on Foster Pavilion Continues

After nearly four years of construction, University Parks Drive from Interstate 35 to Jackson Ave. has been reopened. The newly constructed road serves as a gateway for visitors and residents to the downtown and riverfront areas. Over 260 residential units, 16,000 square feet of retail space, 400 public parking spaces, and Baylor University's Foster Pavilion basketball arena have made their home in Downtown Waco.

Keep in mind that even though University Parks Drive is reopened, the riverfront development is still ongoing. A few ongoing projects will continue to result in closures. However, the entire road will not be closed for these updates.

Read the full update and watch the before and after video at waco-texas.com/universityparks.



Registration Now Open!

Green Communities Conference



Registration is now open for the 2024 Green Communities Conference. The theme for this year is Sustainable Innovation For All. The conference is organized by the Waco Sustainability Network and brings together hundreds of passionate sustainability leaders from all over Texas to dream greener together. The Green Communities Conference covers topics within the landscapes of education, health, and financial security as they relate to sustainability.

The conference is open to the public and anyone interested in sustainability. General admission is \$25. Scholarships are available. To register, visit waco-texas.com/greencommunities.



Lake Waco Wetlands Celebrates 20th Anniversary



Located on the North Bosque River and covering over 180 acres, the Lake Waco Wetlands provides a diverse habitat for the early development of plants and animals. They also provide protection from flood waters and naturally treat about 11 million gallons of water a day from the Bosque River.

The Wetlands were created to replenish habitats that were lost after Waco City Council authorized raising Lake Waco's water level in December 2000. Over the next few years, the nursery area was constructed and educational and research programs started. Later, on August 27, 2004, the Research & Education Center was opened.

Twenty years later, the Wetlands remain a valuable open-air educational area available for guided tours and exploration. To learn more, visit lakewacowetlands.org.



MyWaco Report a Problem

Download the MyWaco app or visit mywaco.com.



Join Your Neighborhood Association

Learn more at waco-texas.com/neighborhoods.



Subscribe to the City eNewsletter

Text NEWS to 1 (888) 714-3083 or visit waco-texas.com/subscribe.



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