

CITYLIMITS APR 2024



Buy Your Tickets Now!
Celebrate the Once-in-a-Lifetime Celestial Event
Live from Waco and All Weekend Long!

APRIL 8, 2024

ECLIPSE OVER TEXAS

LIVE FROM WACO

POWERED BY THE WACO TOURISM PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Celebrate the celestial event of the year with a jam-packed weekend of special events all leading up to the big celebration on Monday, April 8th! Free concerts, a STEAM Expo, drone show, lantern parade, and a 5K and fun run are just a few of the events that await!

THE MAIN EVENT ON MONDAY, APRIL 8

TICKETS ON SALE NOW. To purchase your tickets, visit waco-texas.com/eclipse.

With four minutes and 13 seconds of totality, Waco is one of the best places to view the solar eclipse. Join us at Eclipse Over Texas 2024: Live from Waco to celebrate this once-in-a-lifetime phenomena at McLane Stadium's Touchdown Alley. The City of Waco teamed up with Lowell Observatory, Baylor University, Discovery, and community partners for this cosmic experience.

General admission includes a pair of ISO-certified solar glasses and access to public areas of the event except the VIP area. The event features guided eclipse viewing, expert astronomers, telescopes with solar filters, educational science activities, and food trucks.

PARK & RIDE

Waco Transit System will provide a free shuttle service to the event from Heritage Square, 310 Washington Ave., in Downtown Waco to the event. Free parking is available throughout the Downtown area within walking distance of the shuttle service. Premium parking is also available at McLane Stadium, but parking tickets must be purchased in advance.

ECLIPSE SAFETY

Remember to wear ISO-certified eclipse safety glasses during a solar eclipse. Regular sunglasses are not safe. The only time it is safe to look at a total eclipse without proper eye protection is during the brief period of "totality" when the sun is getting 100 percent blocked by the moon.

JAM-PACKED WEEKEND

Continued on page 2 is even more eclipse fun for the whole family all weekend long. Follow Parks & Recreation on social media for entertainment announcements. Exciting artists are being added every week.



175 Years Strong A Home of Opportunity and Possibilities.



March 2024 to March 2025 marks the 175th anniversary of Waco, Texas. Waco was established in 1849 on land under the care of land agent, Jacob de Cordova. Waco's name was selected to reflect the indigenous Huaco tribe that had previously settled the area. Their name lives on, chosen to honor their legacy and connection to the area. When De Cordova dedicated the land, he envisioned thoughtful layout, natural beauty, and a strategic location, combined with the features of a community with diverse cultural backgrounds — a city welcoming to all.

The 175th anniversary is an appropriate time to reflect and tell the stories of our richly diverse history and recognize and honor the strength and resilience of our people. The City of Waco remains committed to providing exemplary municipal services in a collaborative and transparent manner while honoring the public's trust and promoting a high quality of life.

Join us in celebrating all year long, honoring and acknowledging our City's history, and continuing to focus on the vision established 175 years ago for the City of Waco to be one of acceptance and opportunity for all — a city to believe in!

Even More Eclipse Fun! Plan Your Weekend Around Waco



FRI, APRIL 5

Music Over Waco Concert:

The free concert at Indian Spring Park kicks off the "Live from Waco" weekend of events. Come listen to live music on the banks of the Brazos River next to the historic Waco Suspension Bridge. Event opens at 6 p.m. and music will start at 7 p.m. Artist announcement coming soon.

SAT, APRIL 6

STEAMclipse Expo: A free family-friendly celebration of the eclipse that builds STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) awareness, opportunity, and education. The event will feature NASA plus even more out-of-this-world booths, stellar presentations, and entertainment fit for this event of a lifetime!

Glow Over Waco 5K & Fun Run: Run along the river trail illuminated by glow sticks and LED lights. Hosted by the Greater Waco Sports Commission, the one mile fun run starts at 7:30 p.m. and the 5K at 8 p.m.

Riverfront Concert: The evening will also include a free concert at Indian Spring Park hosted by the City of Waco featuring a journey through Hip Hop with Big Boi of OutKast, DJ Z-Trip, and Arrested Development.

SUN, APRIL 7

Lights Over Waco Festival: Light up Indian Spring Park in Downtown Waco with a lantern parade across the Waco Suspension Bridge, a free concert in the park, and an aerial drone display. More info coming soon.

MON, APRIL 8

Eclipse at Cameron Park Zoo: Wondering how animals will react to total darkness in the middle of the day? Join Cameron Park Zoo to see how the animals will respond to the total eclipse plus enjoy chats with zookeepers and educational presentations throughout the day. Eclipse viewing glasses will be available for purchase on site.

Solar Eclipse with the Mammoths: Join the Waco Mammoth National Monument for a free eclipse event with junior ranger activities perfect for young explorers. Paid tours of the fossil quarry will run from 9:10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and will resume after the eclipse. First come, first served. No buses or RVs.

Visit waco-texas.com/eclipse to learn more! More information is getting added every week.



Celebrate Waco Earth Week!

April 20 to 27

More Than a One Day Celebration.



SAT, APRIL 20
The Great Waco Clean Up
City-Wide Event
9 to 11 a.m.

Join us for a city-wide cleanup event! Each district will have a designated job site and a site captain that will provide the supplies. Register at keepwacobeautiful.org/greatwacocleanup.



SAT, APRIL 20
Party for the Planet
Cameron Park Zoo
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Join us at Cameron Park Zoo for a scavenger hunt where the whole family can search for clues and learn more about the animals and our planet. Cost is \$20 per team.



SUN, APRIL 21
Get Outdoors!
Use our Waco Parks and share your photos using #WacoEarthWeek.

With over 65 parks within the City of Waco, there is an outdoor adventure waiting for you with walking trails, playgrounds, and more!



MON, APRIL 22
Screening: Plastic Planet
Doris Miller Community Center
7 p.m.

Dive deep into the plastic crisis with a FREE screening of "Plastic Planet." Join us for a thought-provoking experience.



WED, APRIL 24
Farmers Market EV Car Show
Bridge Street Pavilion
5 to 8 p.m.

Check out the latest emission free vehicle technology while you shop for locally grown produce and grab dinner from local vendors.



FRI, APRIL 26
Arbor Day Tree Planting
Heritage Square in Downtown
9 a.m.

National Arbor Day celebrates the importance of trees and their crucial role in the environment. Join us for the tree planting at Heritage Square!



SAT, APRIL 27
Care for Waco Carnival
Doris Miller Community Center
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Cap off Earth Week with the FREE Care for Waco Carnival hosted by the Waco Youth Council and the City of Waco Office of Sustainability & Resiliency. Join us for free food, music, games, arts and crafts, educational exhibits, face painting and more.

To learn more, visit: waco-texas.com/earthweek



Interested in Volunteering At the Waco Eclipse Event?

We're looking for volunteers to help with various tasks from April 6 to 9. Volunteer perks include one free admission ticket, a free t-shirt, a snack and beverage, one free parking spot, one pair of solar glasses, and access to an indoor breakroom.

Go to eclipseovertexas2024.com/volunteers to sign up!



Night Hikes Every Friday in April!

Lake Waco Wetlands will be hosting night hikes led by Cameron Park Zoo staff every Friday night in April with each hike starting at 7 p.m. Join us on April 5, 12, 19 and 26. The hikes will be held rain or shine, so please bring appropriate clothes, footwear, water, and flashlights. Everyone is welcome!

For more information, contact us at (254) 848-9654 or noras@wacotx.gov. No registration is required.



Lantern DIY Fun Get Ready for the Eclipse at the Library

All four Waco Library locations are giving you an opportunity to make a one-of-a-kind lantern you can take to the Lights Over Waco Lantern Parade at 7 p.m. on Sunday, April 7 at Indian Springs Park. DIY lantern stations will be available from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Monday, April 1

Glowing Globe Lanterns
West Waco Library



Tuesday, April 2

Bright Bottle Lanterns
South Waco Library



Wednesday, April 3

Gleaming Geometric Lanterns
Central Library

Thursday, April 4

Perfect Paper Lanterns
East Waco Library

"Let's Go Crazy" Over Glass Recycling



Waco is now rockin' new purple containers to recycle your glass bottles and jars. Ditch the trash can and embrace the purple revolution. Recycle your clean glass bottles and food jars for free at one of the various purple containers in Waco! Glass will be taken to Prestige Shredding and Recycling, where it will be recycled — diverting it from our regional landfill.

Learn more and watch the Prince and Purple Rain inspired video PSA at waco-texas.com/glass.

CURRENT LOCATIONS:

- Heritage Square in Downtown Waco
- East Waco Library, 901 Elm Ave
- McLennan Community College in Parking Lot S
- Goodwill Headquarters, 1700 S. New Road



Summer Camp Registration Opening Soon!



Registration opens April 3 for summer camps at Dewey, Doris Miller and South Waco Community Centers. Children ages 5 to 13 will enjoy educational and recreational activities, arts and crafts, games, field trips and more. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Scan the QR code to sign up online.

Camps will take place from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Registration fee is \$90 per child.

The cost for the four-week June and July sessions will be \$300, and the cost for the two-week August session will be \$150.



Upcoming Youth Conferences



Hey, teens! Join us for an empowering day with your friends and peers during Doris Miller Community Center's upcoming youth conferences for kids ages 10 to 17. These youth-mentoring workshops are free to attend and will feature fun activities and helpful topics applicable to today's youth. Breakfast and lunch will be provided at no cost, and both conferences will take place at the center, located at 1020 Elm Ave., Ste. 800L. To sign up, call (254) 750-1956.

GIRLS CONFERENCE:

Event will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 13.

BOYS TO MEN CONFERENCE:

Event will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 27.

In Case You Missed It: Waco City Council Adopts New Flag



On Tuesday, Feb. 20, Waco City Council adopted and unveiled a new flag design replacing the previous suspension bridge design. The original flag, designed by Mr. Gwen Stewart in 1985, has served the City well for over three decades. However, in 2015, discussion of state flag design inspired many governments to make a change moving away from detailed, complex imagery and toward the core principles of good flag design. For flags to work well, they need simple and bold symbolism with a few basic colors.

The new design incorporates some of the most iconic aspects of Waco — the Brazos and Bosque Rivers and the Flying W, all while integrating our Waco-branded blues. Although lettering is not recommended on flags, the Flying W transcends text, functioning as a symbol of Waco's identity. As for our rivers, those are represented simply with parallel lines.

We're excited to proudly wave the new City of Waco flag in our community for years to come.

Early Voting City Council Election

The May 2024 City Council election will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2024, to elect the positions of Mayor, District I, and District III. Early voting will be held from April 22 through April 30, 2024. Those elected will be sworn in at a Special Meeting on May 14, 2024, at 6 p.m.

EARLY VOTING SCHEDULE:

- Monday, April 22 to Friday, April 26, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day
- Saturday, April 27, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Sunday, April 28, 1 to 6 p.m.
- Monday, April 29 to Tuesday April 30, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. both days

EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS:

- McLennan County Records Building, 214 North 4th Street, Suite 300
- Robinson Community Center, 106 W. Lyndale Avenue
- Waco Multi-Purpose Community, Center, 1020 Elm Avenue
- West Waco Library, 5301 Bosque Blvd
- Hewitt City Hall, 200 Patriot Court

When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors

Lightning is a leading cause of injury and death from weather-related hazards. If you're under a thunderstorm warning, find a safe shelter right away, pay attention to alerts, unplug appliances if you're at home, and don't use landline phones.

Remember to sign up for emergency alerts at waco-texas.com/emergency!



League Registrations!



TEAM WACO YOUTH SUMMER TRACK & FIELD

Registration Period: March 4 – May 10
Registration Fee: \$75
Late Registration: May 13-17
(Fee increases to \$90)
Parent's Meeting: May 21
Location: Hart-Patterson Track and Field Complex, 3113 Clay Avenue
Practice Begins: May 28
Age: 5-18

ADULT SOCCER 7V7 LEAGUE

Registration: March 18 – April 12
Registration Fee: \$45
Late Registration: April 15-19
(Fee increases to \$55)
Manager's Meeting: April 24
League Begins: April 29
Location: Riverbend Ballpark, 1001 Lake Shore Drive
Age: 18+

Scan the QR code to sign up online.
Contact the City of Waco Athletics Division at (254) 750-5875 for any questions.



Support the Animal Shelter

The Humane Society of Central Texas (HSCTX) is partnering with animal shelters around the world for the first annual International Shelter Slumber Pawty! On Saturday, April 6, HSCTX's most dedicated supporters will spend 24 hours at our facility eating, sleeping and "pawtying" with our amazing shelter residents while raising money to support our programs. Fundraising begins March 15. To donate and see the adoptable animals, visit the shelter's website at hsctx.org.



Zoo Escape "Room"

Locked Zoo: Finders Keepers

Join Cameron Park Zoo from 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, April 6 to play Locked Zoo: Finders Keepers, a zoo sized escape "room." Solve a series of puzzles before time runs out while you also learn about different species, the role of zoos, and the importance of wildlife conservation! Locked Zoo puzzles are best suited for ages 12 and up, but all are welcome. Tickets are \$35 per person. People can work in teams of up to 10 people. To purchase tickets, visit cameronparkzoo.com/events.



Applications Open!

Junior Police Academy



Applications are now open for our Junior Police Academy. This 10-day course allows high school students to learn about the Waco Police Department and gain excellent life skills while building a relationship with their local police officers.

Applications for the program are due on Friday, April 19! To apply, visit wacopolice.com.



Homeownership Made Affordable!

Home Rehabilitation & Down Payment Assistance



Make homeownership a reality with affordable programs from the City of Waco Housing & Community Development. With the help of federal resources, the City offers residents down payment assistance and home rehabilitation programs. Some residents may even qualify for assistance regardless of income if you live in certain areas of Waco! Let's build a stronger, more vibrant community, one homeowner at a time.

To learn more and start the application process, call a housing representative at (254) 750-5656 or visit waco-texas.com/housing.



Bump. Set. Spike!

Learn the Fundamentals of Volleyball!



Improve your child's volleyball game with Doris Miller Community Center's free, Fundamentals of Volleyball program for kids ages 10-13! Participants will learn all aspects of the game through drills and exercises that focus on passing, setting, hitting and serving. Players will also have the opportunity to participate in a one-day tournament. The program will run from April 2-30 and will take place on Tuesdays from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the center (1020 Elm Ave., Ste. 800L). Register by calling (254) 750-1956.



Touch-a-Truck

Waco Kiddos Get Hands-On with City Vehicles

Join us from 10:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 20 in the Central Library parking lot for an up-close encounter with some of the City of Waco's unique vehicles! We'll have a street sweeper and a steam roller from Public Works, the Transit trolley, and a Solid Waste truck. Vehicle operators will be on hand to answer all your questions. We will also have truck toys and coloring pages that become wearable hats to play with in the courtyard.

Ample parking will be available across the street courtesy of our friends at Community Bank & Trust.



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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