

SEE MORE JANUARY EVENTS

For a list of events, please visit www.waco-texas.com and click on the Calendar icon.

City of Waco Holiday Information

Wednesday, January 1, 2020:

New Year Holiday, the City offices will be closed.

The Solid Waste Offices, Cobbs Recycling Center and Landfill will be closed.

Waco Transit System, Cameron Park Zoo, all Waco Libraries, Waco Mammoth National Monument and Texas Ranger Hall of Fame will be closed in observance of the New Year holiday.

Monday, January 20, 2020:

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday, the City offices will be closed.

The Solid Waste Offices, Cobbs Recycling Center will be closed. The Landfill will be closed to the public, but will accept franchise haulers until 4:30 p.m.

Monday's trash will be collected on Wednesday, January 22.

All Waco libraries will be closed in observance of the on Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Waco Transit System will run as usual.

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

Monday, January 6

Kendrick General Meeting, 6 p.m. @ Heart of Texas Goodwill Industries (1700 S. New Road)

Tuesday, January 14

Downtown Neighborhood General Meeting, 6:30 p.m. @ The Central Library (1717 Austin Ave.)

Monday, January 27

Brooks Oaks General Meeting, 6 p.m. @ The Dewey Center (925 N. 9th St.)

Neighborhood Associations may make last minute changes to dates or times. Check their websites or social media outlets for the latest information.

Last chance to find out if you can get a lower electricity rate. If you haven't signed up for the free, no-obligation Texas Power Switch auction go to www.texaspowerswitch.com/waco to see if you can get a lower electricity rate.



VICTIM SERVICES VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Waco Police Department Victim Services Unit is now taking applications to provide assistance and support to victims of crime. The five-week Victim Services Volunteer Academy will start on April 6, 2020. Applications are due by March 20, 2020. The classes are held on Monday & Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. @ WPD. A background check will be conducted for eligibility to volunteer with the unit. Please contact Missy Sparks at (254) 750-7527 or mspark@wacotx.gov if you are interested in volunteering.

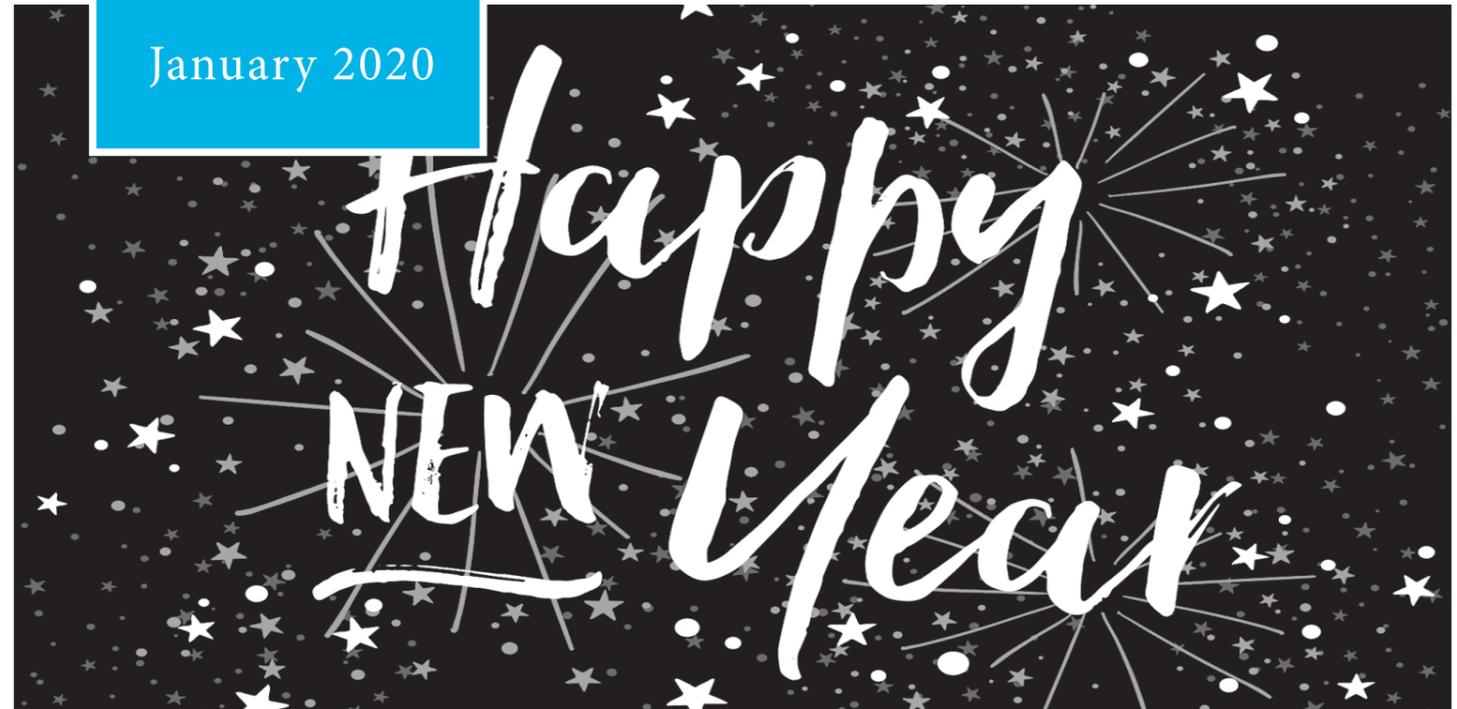
NEW YEAR'S EVE "SAFE RIDE HOME" PROGRAM

Need a designated driver for you or your group this New Year's Eve? Waco Transit System's free "Safe Ride Home" program has you covered! Call 254-750-1620 to book your free ride to and from your New Year's Eve destination. Rides must be within the Waco urbanized area and occur between the hours of 6 p.m. to 3 a.m. Advance reservations preferred, with limited same-day availability. Reservation line opens December 1, 2019.



CITY LIMITS newsletter

January 2020



WAYS TO PROTECT PETS THIS WINTER

Keep pets sheltered

- Keep your pets inside with you. Under no circumstances should pets be left outdoors, even if they roam outside during other seasons. Dogs are happiest when taken out frequently for walks and exercise, but kept inside the rest of the time. Don't leave pets outdoors when the temperature drops.
- If your dog is outdoors much of the day, they must be protected by a dry, draft-free shelter that is large enough for them to move comfortably, but small enough to hold in body heat. The floor should be raised a few inches from the ground and covered with cedar shavings or straw. The doorway should be covered with waterproof burlap or heavy plastic.
- Pets who are outdoors need more food in the winter because keeping warm depletes energy. Routinely check your pets water dish to make certain the water is fresh and unfrozen. Use plastic food and water bowls; when the temperature is low, your pets tongue can stick and freeze to metal.

Bundle up, wipe down

- No matter what the temperature is, windchill can threaten a pets life. Exposed skin on noses, ears and paw pads are at risk for frostbite and hypothermia during extreme cold.
- Rock salt and other chemicals used to melt snow/ice can irritate your pets feet. Wipe all paws with a damp towel before your pet licks them and irritates their mouth.

Remove common poisons

- Antifreeze is a deadly poison, but it has a sweet taste that

may attract animals and children. Wipe up any antifreeze spills immediately and keep it, like all household chemicals, out of reach.

Coolants and antifreeze made with propylene glycol are less toxic to pets, wildlife and family.

- Dogs are at particular risk of salt poisoning in winter due to the rock salt used in many areas. Store de-icing salt in a safe place and wipe your dog's paws, even after short walks. If your dog ingests rock salt, call a veterinarian immediately.

Protect outdoor animals

- If there are outdoor cats, remember that they need protection as well as food and water. It's easy to give them a hand.
- Cars are one of many hazards to small animals—warm engines in parked cars attract cats and small wildlife, who may crawl up under the hood. To avoid injuring any hidden animals, bang on your cars hood to scare them away before starting your engine.

If you encounter a pet left in the cold, politely let the owner know you're concerned. If someone you raise these concerns with responds poorly or continues to neglect their animals, contact Waco Animal Services at 254-750-1765.



GREEN RESOLUTIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR

- Recycle your Christmas Tree. Keep Waco Beautiful's will host its annual "Chipping of the Green" Christmas recycling event on Saturday, January 4 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Paul Tyson Field parking lot.
- Waco residents with a blue recycling and/or green yard waste cart, can request a second blue recycling cart for no extra charge! Complete a request form on waco-texas.com or call (254) 299-2612.
- Visit the Cobbs Convenience Center to recycle more! Call 751-8536 to ask questions.
- Please avoid putting anything into storm drains. Remember "Only Rain Down the Drain!"
- Have cooking oil to dispose of? Small quantities of cooking oil can be mixed with kitty litter, doubled bagged, and placed in your trash cart. Please do not pour cooking oil or grease down the drain. You can also properly dispose of the cooking oil or grease at 5 stations located around the city. For more information go to waco-texas.com or call 299-2489.
- Join the Litter Challenge! If each person picks up and throws away just one piece of litter a day, they will have put 45 pounds of litter in its place by the end of the year.
- The Yellow Pages will be delivered in January. If you do not want Yellow Pages delivered, go to <http://www.yellowpagesoptout.com> to choose not to receive the yellow pages. If you have a phone book that you do not want, you can put it in your blue recycling cart or take it to the Cobbs Citizen Convenience Center.

WAYS TO CONTACT THE CITY

Visit www.waco-texas.com and select Directory at the top of the page for phone numbers and email addresses for staff & departments.

Frequently called numbers (some with after hour contacts):

- Water & Sewer Utilities (includes after hour emergencies) 299-2489 or email wateroncall@wacotx.gov
- Animal Control (M-F 8 a.m.-5 p.m.) 750-1765. After 5 p.m.: (254) 750-7500
- Police (non-Emergencies) 750-7500
- Traffic/Streets (Traffic Lights, Potholes, hazards-includes after hours emergencies) 750-8690
- Solid Waste (M-F 8 a.m.-5 p.m.) 299-2612
- To Report a Dead Animal in Street After 5 p.m.: 299-2489

HEALTHY WOMEN & CHILDREN COALITION

January is National Cervical Cancer Awareness Month! Did you know that you can prevent cervical cancer by receiving the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine? Doctors recommend that both men and women should receive this vaccine as early as 9 years old. If you haven't received the vaccine yet, it can be administered and be effective if received up to the age of 26. In addition to preventing cervical cancer with the HPV vaccine, pap smears can also help detect pre-cancer, or changes to your cervical cells that may lead to cervical cancer, and help identify cervical cancer in the early stages.

Some risk factors that may increase your chances of developing cervical cancer are having multiple sexual partners, other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), or smoking regularly. Although

there are no symptoms during the early stages of cervical cancer, symptoms of more advanced cervical cancer include vaginal bleeding after intercourse, foul vaginal odor, or pelvic pain during intercourse.

If you haven't received the HPV vaccine or haven't had a pap smear in the past 3 years, contact your doctor for more information and to schedule an appointment to reduce your risk of cervical cancer. Additionally, please visit <https://www.mayoclinic.org> for more resources and information.



CITY OF WACO CAREERS

JOIN OUR TEAM

The City of Waco offers a competitive salary based on qualifications and experience. Our comprehensive benefit package includes a retirement program with Texas Municipal Retirement System (TMRS) that guarantees a monthly annuity for your life, longevity pay, sick leave, and paid vacation and holiday time.

To view our current job openings and to apply visit: www.waco-texas.com/employment

The City of Waco is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

work for
WACO
impact the future

New Resolution: Read More Books!

Start your year off right at the Library! Visit wacolibrary.org for information about these and other library programs.

Adult Programs

January 18 at 10:30 a.m. (West Waco Library): Book Tasting - Explore a menu of new books for the new year! Browse a selection of titles and make notes on what you like. You might find something for yourself or for a friend. Reserve your favorite to check out at the end and you'll walk out with a winner. Sample books from lots of different genres and you might find a new favorite!

January 25 at 10:30 a.m. (South Waco Library): Mediterranean Diet Cooking Program - The Mediterranean Diet is healthy and delicious. Learn how to plan menus and shop smart, focusing on veggies, lean proteins and healthy fats. Build health literacy skills and taste some healthy foods. The Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service gives us information to aim for a healthier lifestyle.

January 11 at 2 p.m. (West Waco Library): Crafty Adults: Wall Organizer - Was one of your resolutions to get more organized? We can help! Make a wall organizer using an embroidery hoop, fabric and ribbons. We'll have all the supplies and walk you through the steps, so you end up with an organizer that can hold all the notes, cards and scraps that need a place.

Kids Programs

January 11 at 2 p.m. (Central Library): S-S-S-STEAM Team: A Slithery Celebration! - We've got visitors! Animal ambassadors from the Cameron Park Zoo will be here to demonstrate that snakes aren't so s-s-s-scary! Learn about reptiles, animal appreciation and make a great felt bookmark inspired by a Texas snake. You'll build ecological and science literacy skills and you might make a new no-legged friend!

Teen Programs

January 8 & 22 at 4 p.m. (East Waco Library): Teen Minecraft - Bring your unique perspective to building our world! Teens can build technological literacy, problem solving skills and practice teamwork in the Library's realm.

January 15 & 29 at 4 p.m. (East Waco Library): Teen Roblox - Build Roblox games and play other games on this social platform with over 48 million players. Build computer literacy and social skills while you play.

January 10 at 5:45 p.m. (South Waco Library): Teen After Hours: Olympians Night - Stick around after the library closes for an after hours Olympian party! Learn about Greek and Roman mythology, play a Percy Jackson-style scavenger hunt game and celebrate your Olympian fandom. We explore social literacy, history and pop culture all at once!

All Ages

January 11 at 10 a.m. (Central Library): Texas Rangers in Pop Culture - We're collaborating with the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum to present Texas Rangers in Pop Culture! The Lone Ranger and Ranger Jim are just the beginning. You'll have a chance to learn about the history of the Texas Rangers and how they fit in pop culture, take a magical picture where you dress up and become a Ranger yourself and design a page of your own Ranger comic book! We'll have fun for all ages, so tell everyone you know.

Family Fun

January 18 at 2 p.m. (Central Library): Giant Games Day - When winter chills hit, we've got BIG indoor fun. Build problem solving skills, work on social literacy and play giant games. We'll have everything you need to spend a Saturday afternoon playing Giant Uno, Memory Mayhem and more. Our games are perfect for elementary-age kids and their families!

Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. (South Waco Library): Parent Playgroup - It's time to find your parent tribe! Join other parents with preschool-age kids to learn some great early literacy skills. With songs, puppets and fingerplays, you'll learn how to take the learning home with you. We'll have time for playing, learning and friendship building--tools you need for kindergarten readiness.

Genealogy Programs

January 27 at 7 p.m. (West Waco Library): Defunct Counties in the U.S. : a Genealogical Primer, a CTGS program - If a county changes its name, moves across the state line or gets absorbed by other counties, what happens to the information about people who lived there? The Genealogy Center's Bill Buckner will present information about these defunct counties. The people who lived there got married, divorced, were born and died there, and they might have been your ancestors! Finding this elusive information might lead to a family history research breakthrough.

January 13 at Noon (West Waco Library): HistoryGeo.com: Unlocking the Past with Original and Early Landowner Maps - Presenter Greg Boyd will share how to use the HistoryGeo database. A map of 12.5 million US landowners in 30 states is overlaid with modern maps, so we can see the historic changes. The database helps locate and translate land descriptions into helpful pieces of information for your research. HistoryGeo helps researchers use the Friends, Associates and Neighbors method (FAN) to uncover information about people based on the people around them. Community information can help give us insight about individuals. Learn about this unique tool and take your research to another level!

January 25 at 10:30 a.m. (East Waco Library): CTGS Genealogy Beginners Class - The Genealogy Beginners Class is at the East Waco Library! Our very own Bill Buckner will cover topics like using genealogy forms, basic records and Internet sources. The class is a great way to kick off your genealogy exploration. The program is co-sponsored by the Central Texas Genealogical Society.

