

WOODWAY

TEXAS

July / August 2023

City Councilmembers:

Mayor Amine Qourzal

Mayor Pro Tem John Williams

David Russell

Storey Cook

Gayle Avant

Janell Gilman

David Keyston



**922 Estates Drive
Woodway, Texas 76712
254.772.4480**

 **@cityofwoodway**

 **@woodwaytexas**

 **@ofwoodway**

woodwaytexas.gov

Meet Mayor Amine Qourzal



Mayor Amine Qourzal is a devoted leader dedicated to shaping the bright future of Woodway where he has been a proud resident for over a decade. With a steadfast commitment to community engagement, progress, and quality of life, Mayor Qourzal is determined to foster an environment where every citizen can thrive. His public service journey started with his appointment to the Parks and Recreation Commission in 2013 where he served for four years followed by his appointment to the Planning & Zoning Board in 2017 where he helped shape Woodway's growth. In 2019, Qourzal was elected to City Council representing Ward I. In 2022, after nearly 10 years in combined public service to Woodway, Qourzal was appointed Mayor by City Council. In addition to serving as Mayor, Qourzal is also a founding member of the Woodway Wine and Food Festival and served on the McLennan County COVID Strategic Communications Task Force during the pandemic. He is also a Waco 40 under 40 award recipient. Mayor Qourzal is a proud graduate of Baylor University and the Hankamer School of Business. He is married to his college sweetheart Lisa, and they have three children attending local schools. The Qourzals are also active members of Antioch Community Church in Waco, TX.

Meet Mayor Pro Tem John Williams

Meet Mayor Pro Tem John Williams, a successful leader who is passionate about impacting lives and improving community. He has worked more than twenty years as a municipal government leader and community advocate, and he has held senior positions in Parks & Recreation, Public Works, and Code Enforcement, in addition to the non-profit sector in neighborhood improvement. Prior to his local government service, Williams served with distinction in the US Army. He grew up in Muncie, IA and obtained his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Indiana University Bloomington.



Currently, Williams is a Realtor with REMAX Centex Realtors and an Adjunct Professor in the government department at McLennan Community College (MCC). As an Adjunct Professor, Williams has taught federal and Texas government for MCC and a graduate course in city management for Texas Tech University.

Meet our Newest Councilmember David Keyston

Councilmember Keyston and his wife Cheryl have been proud Woodway residents for the past three and a half years. Prior to Woodway City Council service, Keyston held similar positions on the Board of Directors for Crooked River Ranch in Terrebonne, Oregon as well as spending five years on their Architectural Review Board. Keyston has been in sales his entire life, mostly in commercial office leasing and car sales as well as holding real estate licenses in three states. He has spent the last thirty plus years in non-profit Christian publishing with his company Healing Unlimited. He and his wife love to travel, but they always love coming home to Woodway. Their two Bergamasco dogs love to break out of the back yard and greet neighbors as well as go on car rides. Some of Keyston's hobbies are photography, reading, classic movies, and racing cars and motorcycles.



The Woodway Forward Comprehensive Plan continues this summer as the consulting firm Kimley-Horn and City Staff have planned for additional community engagement events to gather data on what citizens would like to see for the future of Woodway pertaining to business and residential properties along Highway 84. The Comprehensive Plan will serve as a roadmap as the city grows. Staff values your input and ideas, as they are essential to

creating a plan that truly reflects the needs and aspirations of this community. There will also be a second come-and-go Public Input Meeting on Thursday, July 27th between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. It's not too late either to participate in the community survey and provide feedback pertaining to this project. For continuous updates, please visit woodwaytexas.gov under Woodway Forward.



Large Item Pickup Dates



SAVE THE DATE

Large Item Pickup Is Coming Soon!

If your trash days are Monday & Thursday, large items will be picked up
Monday, July 17th.

If your trash days are Tuesday & Friday, large items will be picked up
Tuesday, July 18th.



For a list of acceptable items, please visit woodwaytexas.gov/trash or contact 254.772.4480.

The Summer Large Item Pickup dates are scheduled for July 17th and 18th whichever is your first trash day of the week. This pickup is for large items, such as: sofas, chairs, and furniture. For appliances, please call Woodway City Hall at 254.772.4480.

Televisions and tires must be brought directly to the landfill to dispose, as these items will not be picked up at curbside. *No hazardous materials will be collected on these dates*

Holiday Trash Schedule

City offices will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day. Please also be aware that all scheduled trash pickups that week will be delayed one day due to the holiday.

Chief Bret Crook retires after 27 years at WPSD



The City recently announced the retirement of Chief Bret Crook from the Woodway Public Safety Department after his 27 years of service. Chief Crook started with WPSD in 1996 and quickly became a leader in Woodway. In 1999, Chief Crook started the first WPSD K9 Unit with K9 Codie. That same year Chief Crook was promoted to a Sergeant position in Patrol. In 2001, Chief Crook was promoted to Captain and was assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division for one year before moving back to patrol as a Captain between 2002 - 2014. In 2003, Chief Crook was accepted into the FBI's National Academy for law enforcement supervisors, and he is a graduate of the 212th session. Chief Crook is actively involved with the IACP, and over the last ten years has been assigned to focus groups concerning social media and policing, the development of universal CAD operations for public safety, CJIS committee (Criminal Justice Information Systems) and the Conference Committee with IACP. Locally he serves on the McLennan County EMS Committee, the MCC advisory committee, 911 Board, and the HOT 100 Club Board.

Chief Crook holds a Master Peace Officer certificate, Canine Trainer Certificate, Crisis Negotiator Certificate, TCLEOSE Instructor Certificate, Crisis Intervention Certificate, Mobile Video Instructor Certificate, and Statement Analysis Certificate. Chief Crook spent most of 2011 supervising the remodel of the current public safety building as well as the installation of a new digital radio system for the City's needs. In 2017, Chief Crook successfully completed all the necessary legwork for Woodway Public Safety to continue as a Recognized Agency with the Texas Police Chief's Association. Chief Crook has received numerous annual awards for duties he has provided the City. His time here in Woodway is invaluable, and he is a very well respected officer in Central Texas and beyond. Staff would like to wish Chief Crook and his family the very best as he begins his new journey into retirement!

Meet the new Woodway Public Safety Leadership Team



Chief Khalil Abdallah El-Halabi has been with the Woodway Public Safety Department since 2008, and he is Dual-Certified as Police and Fire-Fighter with the State of Texas. He has held every rank within the Woodway Public Safety Department during his tenure. Chief El-Halabi holds a Master's Degree from Kaplan University (A.K.A. Purdue University Global), a Master Peace Officer License through the State of Texas, and is currently pursuing his Doctorate in Public Administration through Liberty University. Chief El-Halabi has been recognized multiple times as his department's Officer of the Year and was the recipient of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) 40 Under 40 award which recognizes leaders from around the world who demonstrate leadership in their profession. Chief El-Halabi instructs at the police academy where he has trained cadets on Health and Nutrition, Professional Policing, Police Ethics, Physical and Mental Well-Being; he also instructs Cultural Diversity at the Police New Supervisor Course.

Assistant Chief Todd Gill is a graduate of LaVega High School with previous experience in construction. He came to the City of Woodway in 1986 to become a police officer. He attended the Police Academy at MCC and graduated top of his class. Gill has received recognition by the City for Officer of the Year in addition to Outstanding Leadership awards and most recently received the Innovation Award. He has served as a Patrol Sergeant, Patrol Captain, and Captain over Criminal Investigations. He was a founding member of the SWAT Team where he served as a Team Leader and eventually became the SWAT Team Commander. Assistant Chief Gill has served the citizens of Wooday for over 37 years, and he is looking forward to his new role.



Summer Fun for the Kids!



First Annual Arbo Fest

On Sunday, April 30, 2003, the Carleen Bright Arboretum celebrated its grand reopening with an exciting event called Arbo Fest, which is sure to be an annual event! The event was a huge success with an estimated 1,500 guests in attendance. The festival featured live music from talented artists Blue Water Highway, Sami Brown, and Brett Welch.

The highlight of the event was the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Arboretum which was performed by the Honorable Mayor Amine Qourzal along with the City Council. Mayor Qourzal's family also participated in the event by doing the butterfly release, which added a beautiful touch to the event. Arbo Fest had plenty of other activities for guests of all ages to enjoy. There was a scavenger hunt, eat-a-bug, rock painting, face painting, seed bombs, and more. The festival also featured a vendor market that guests could browse in between activities and purchase items from vendors such as: Kendra Scott, Waco Carnivores, and the Central Texas Cactus and Succulent Society. The event also had several food trucks for guests to enjoy.



Don't miss these Summertime Events at the Arboretum

ACOUSTIC NIGHT

featuring **THOMAS CSORBA**
GABE LEE
CALEB CAUDLE

JULY 19

CARLEEN BRIGHT ARBORETUM

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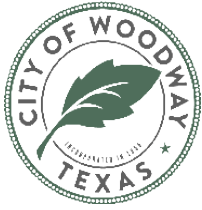
1st The First NATIONAL BANK
of Central Texas

WOODWAY FARMERS MARKET

AT THE **CARLEEN BRIGHT arboretum**

SUN. 7.23.23 | 11AM-3PM

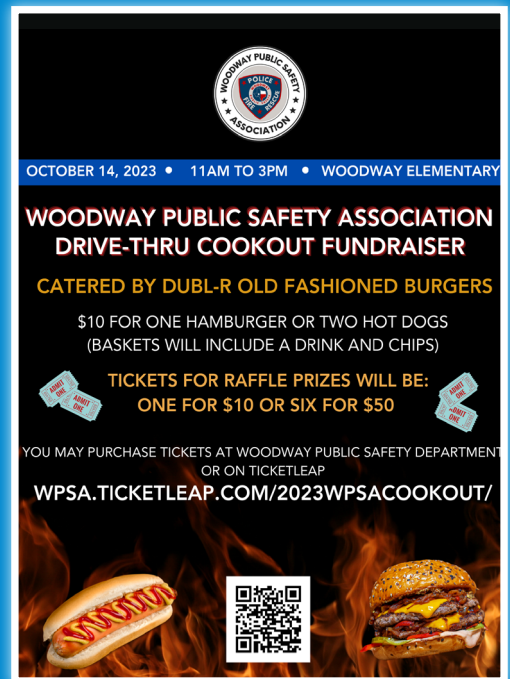
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Woodway Public Safety Upcoming Events



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