

# September/October 2025

### **City Councilmembers:**

Mayor Amine Qourzal Mayor Pro Tem Storey Cook

**David Russell** 

Janell Gilman

**David Keyston** 

**Ken Sury** 

**Dave Whitby** 



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**City of Woodway** 

woodwaytexas.gov



# MAYOR'S MINUTE

A LETTER FROM MAYOR QOURZAL

Dear Woodway,

With summer behind us, kids back in school, and the return of football season, fall truly is my favorite season. Even though it may still be hot outside, I hope you will take time to get outdoors and enjoy all the activities Woodway has to offer!

Your council has been hard at work for the past several months working on next year's city budget. I am pleased to report that we have officially adopted a no-new-revenue tax rate (.363836 per \$100 of assessed property value) and a balanced budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year! This decision reflects our commitment to responsible governance and our people-first values. While I can't promise we will always be able to maintain a no-new revenue rate as changes in operating costs fluctuate, I am happy to report that, pending the formal adoption by their respective city councils of all rates currently proposed, Woodway now has the lowest property tax rate in McLennan County! Our balanced budget ensures continued in investment in public safety, infrastructure, recreation, and essential services. We also continue to prioritize transparency and digital access by posting all of our budget information on the city website, making it easier for taxpayers to see how their money is being utilized.

This achievement is the result of thoughtful planning, collaboration, and a shared vision for Woodway's future. I'm proud of our council and city for their dedication, and I'm grateful to you: our residents for your trust and support. Thank you for making Woodway the best place to live, grow, and thrive!



Mayor Amine Qourzal





Cities utilize boards and commissions to enhance civic engagement, broaden the scope of local governance, and ensure diverse perspectives are considered in decision-making. Each May, our elected City Council approves the appointments of new and returning applicants to each of four active boards and commissions that play a crucial advisory role, helping to shape public policy and offer guidance for various aspects of city operations in Woodway.

Here is a more detailed look at the purposes served by appointed boards and commissions:

#### • Citizen Engagement and Representation:

Boards and commissions provide a structured way for citizens to participate in local government. By serving on these bodies, residents can contribute their expertise, perspectives, and community knowledge to the decision-making process.

#### • Advisory Role:

These bodies primarily act in an advisory capacity to the city council or other governing body. They provide recommendations, feedback, and analysis on proposed policies, projects, or regulations, helping elected officials make well-informed choices.

#### • Specialized Expertise, Efficiency, and Oversight:

Many boards and commissions focus on specific areas like planning, zoning, historic preservation, or economic development, as determined by the size and general needs of the city. This allows for the involvement of individuals with specialized knowledge and experience in these fields, providing guidance and informing decisions on complex issues.

#### Diverse Perspectives:

Boards and commissions can help ensure that a wide range of viewpoints are considered in the decision-making process. This can lead to more inclusive and equitable outcomes for the community.



### City Operations Explained: Boards and Commissions (continued)

#### • Community Involvement:

Serving on a board or commission can be a rewarding experience for volunteers, allowing them to develop new skills, gain valuable experience, and make a positive contribution to their community.

Rewards for services are not measured in dollars but in the satisfaction of knowing that you care enough to give back to your community. The City Council conducts an annual call for board/commission applications early each year. The City Council Nominating Committee meets in April to consider appointments to fill all anticipated vacancies and then makes a recommendation to the entire City Council for action in May. Appointments are also made during the year as vacancies occur.

There are currently four established boards and commissions, three of which meet on a regular basis. More information on meetings and qualifications are available on the Application for Volunteer Service form, linked here, but briefly:

- The **Planning & Zoning Commission** holds regular meetings each month to act on a wide variety of issues involving zoning and development within the City of Woodway, conducting public hearings and making recommendations to City Council regarding these issues as appropriate.
- The **Parks & Recreation Commission** is an advisory body to the City Council on all matters relating to recreational facilities in Woodway. This commission holds regular meetings in January, March, May, August, and October, and occasionally assists with special events and projects throughout the year.
- The **Youth Commission** is made up of Woodway residents in grades 7 through 12 who serve as an advisory body to the City Council on matters relating to young citizens. Except for June and July, regular meetings are held each month and members are expected to assist with special events and projects conducted throughout the year.
- The Board of Adjustment addresses appeals filed with the City regarding application and interpretation of certain ordinances pertaining to zoning and nonconforming uses of real property. There is no regular meeting schedule. These members meet only under the advisement of the City Attorney.

Those interested in applying for appointment should consider attending a meeting to familiarize themselves with the roles and procedures of the board or commission. Applications will open again in early 2026 and be due to the City Secretary by April 15, 2026.

Thank you to our current elected and appointed officials, all of whom are volunteers committed to the service of their community!



September 8th @ 5:30 p.m. September 22nd @ 5:30 p.m.

October 6th @ 5:30 p.m.
October 27th @ 5:30 p.m.

November 10th (two meetings) 5:30 and 5:45 p.m.

December 8th (two meetings) 5:30 and 5:45 p.m.



### **Reminder About Woodway 311 App**

Were you aware that Woodway has an app? *Woodway 311* is a non-emergency service portal that provides Woodway citizens a way to stay up to date on severe weather events, city-wide street & sewer projects. Citizens can also report high weeds, street issues, stray animals, junk cars, and more.



### **Budget Updates**



# **ADOPTED FY26 TAX RATE**





\$.363836

At the August 25th City Council meeting, a *no-new revenue tax rate* of \$.363836 was adopted by Council for the FY26 budget. Woodway taxpayers will pay the City \$363.84 per \$100,000 of the property taxable value. The average taxable value in Woodway is \$424,550 which would cost the property owner \$1544.68 in City taxes annually or \$128.72 monthly.



### Utility Rate Changes for 2025-2026

The City wants to inform citizens of two important rate adjustments that will go into effect on October 1, 2025.

The City's garbage service provider, Frontier Waste Services, increased the City's cost by 2.97% over the summer. Additionally, the City of Waco raised landfill costs by 4% as of September 1st. These changes necessitated a 6% increase in all sanitation rates.

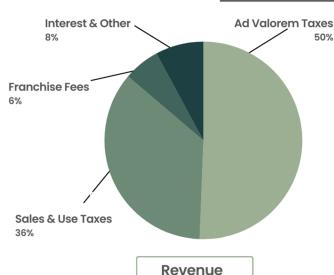
Another significant utility billing change is the addition of a 3% fee for credit card payments. This is the fee charged to us by the credit card processor and will directly offset those costs. All other forms of payment, including bank draft/ACH will not have an associated fee.

If you have any billing questions or if you would like to set up payment by bank draft, please call our customer service team at 254.772.4480. More information on the budget can also be found on our website at https://woodwaytexas.gov/budget-finance/.



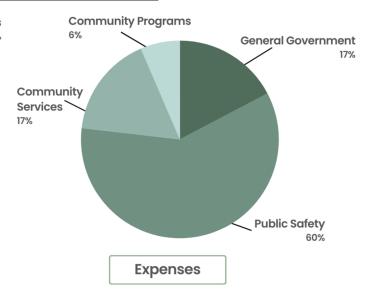
### **Budget Updates: General and Utility Funds**

# **General Fund FY26**



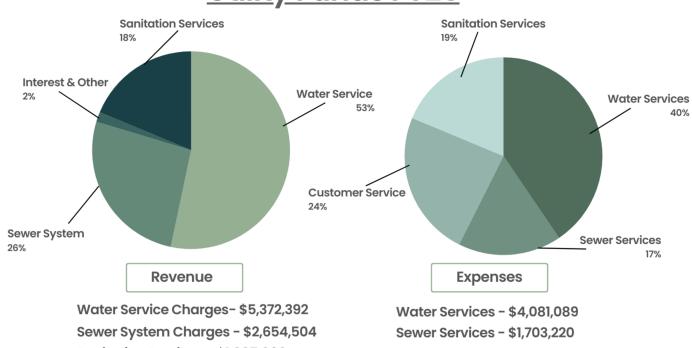
Ad Valorem Taxes - \$6,486,880 Sales & Use Taxes - \$4,564,500 Franchise Fees - \$756,570

Interest & Other - \$1,007,924



General Government - \$2,216,942 Public Safety - \$7,628,098 Community Services - \$2,142,669 Community Programs - \$828,165

# **Utility Funds FY26**



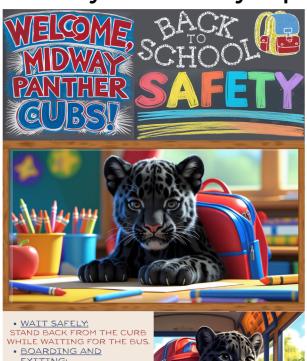
Sanitation Services - \$1,885,060 Interest & Other - \$165,495

Sanitation Services - \$1,886,060 Customer Services - \$2,407,082

The complete budget may be viewed at https://woodwaytexas.gov/budget-finance/.



# **Woodway Public Safety Department Safety Tips**



**EXITING:** 

ENTER AND EXIT THE BUS CAREFULLY, STAYING IN THE DRIVER'S SIGHT.

· BUS SAFETY ZONES: AVOID WALKING BEHIND THE BUS, AND BE AWARE OF OTHER VEHICLES AND THE DANGER ZONES AROUND THE BUS



CAN BE AN ADVENTURE!

IT IS STILL

IMPORTANT TO STAY

SAFE!

• STAY SEATED; REMAIN SEATED WHILE THE BUS IS MOVING.

• USE INSIDE VOICES: LOUD NOISES CAN DISTRACT THE DRIVER, SO STUDENTS SHOULD USE QUIET VOICES

• FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS: THE DRIVER (OR BUS AIDE, IF THERE IS ONE) IS IN CHARGE



IF YOU DO NOT HAVE KIDS AT HOME, IT MIGHT BE EASY TO FORGET THAT SUMMER IS WINDING DOWN AND SCHOOL IS BACK IN SESSION! REMEMBER THESE TIPS TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERYONE STAYS SAFE!

SCHOOL ZONES:
 BE EXTRA CAUTIOUS IN SCHOOL ZONES, OBEYING SPEED LIMITS AND AVOIDING DISTRACTIONS.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY:
 YIELD TO PEDESTRIANS IN CROSSWALKS AND BE AWARE OF CHILDREN WALKING OR BIKING TO SCHOOL.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY:
STOP FOR SCHOOL BUSES WITH FLASHING RED LIGHTS AND WATCH
FOR CHILDREN BOARDING OR EXITING.

AVOID DISTRACTIONS:

OO NOT USE CELL PHONES OR OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES WHILE

DRIVING, ESPECIALLY IN SCHOOL ZONES.



TO SCHOOL CAN BE A LOT OF FUN FOR A YOUNG STUDENT! TO STAY SAFE, IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THESE TIPS!

SIDEWALKS AND CROSSWALKS:

ALWAYS USE SIDEWALKS WHEN AVAILABLE, AND CROSS STREETS AT INTERSECTIONS OR CROSSWALKS.

• LOOK BOTH WAYS: BEFORE CROSSING THE STREET, LOOK LEFT, LOOK RIGHT, AND LEFT AGAIN, AND MAKE EYE CONTACT WITH DRIVERS.

· BE VISIBLE:

WEAR BRIGHT CLOTHING AND CONSIDER USING REFLECTIVE GEAR, ESPECIALLY DURING THE EARLY MORNING OR LATE AFTERNOON.

• STAY ALERT: AVOID USING ELECTRONIC DEVICES THAT CAN DISTRACT

• BUDDY UP:

WALKING WITH A FRIEND OR IN A GROUP CAN ENHANCE SAFETY

• EMERGENCY PLAN: HAVE A PLAN IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES OR UNEXPECTED





BIKES ARE A FUN AND FAST WAY TO GET TO SCHOOL! REMEMBER THESE IMPORTANT SAFETY TIPS SO THAT YOU ALWAYS ARRIVE SAFELY!

· HELMET AND

VISIBILITY: ALWAYS WEAR A PROPERLY FITTED AND FASTENED HELMET AND BRIGHT CLOTHING. USE FRONT AND REAR LIGHTS, AND

MAKE SURE THE BIKE HAS REFLECTORS ON THE WHEELS, PEDALS, AND REAR.

• TRAFFIC LAWS:

FOLLOW ALL TRAFFIC LAWS, USE BIKE LANES WHERE AVAILABLE, AND OBEY TRAFFIC SIGNALS.

• SECURE THE BIKE: ENSURE THE BIKE IS IN THE DESIGNATED BIKE RACK OR AREA AND LOCKED PROPERLY WHEN ARRIVING AT SCHOOL.

• BE ALERT:

BE AWARE OF SURROUNDINGS, WATCH FOR OBSTACLES, AND AVOID DISTRACTIONS.

PLAN ROUTES:

PLAN ROULES:
 PLAN AND PRACTICE ROUTES TO AND FROM SCHOOL WITH CHILDREN, HIGHLIGHTING SAFE PATHS AND POTENTIAL HAZARDS.
 PROP-OFF AND PICK-UP:
 FOLLOW SCHOOL GUIDELINES FOR DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP ZONES, AND AVOID BLOCKING TRAFFIC OR PARKING IN UNSAFE AREAS.

BACKPACK SAFETY:
CHOOSE BACKPACKS WITH WIDE, PADDED STRAPS AND A PADDED BACK, PACK HEAVIER ITEMS CLOSEST TO THE CENTER OF THE BACK. THE BACKPACK SHOULD NOT EXCEED 10-20% OF THE CHILD'S WEIGHT.

COMMUNICATION & SAFETY:

ESTABLISH CLEAR COMMUNICATION CHANNELS WITH CHILDREN,
TEACHERS, AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION, INCLUDING PHONE
NUMBERS AND EMERGENCY CONTACTS.

TEACH CHILDREN ABOUT STRANGER DANGER, SAFETY RULES, AND
WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY.



GETTING BACK INTO

THE SCHOOL ROUTINE CAN BE STRESSFUL! THESE TIPS CAN HELP YOU PREPARE AND KEEP YOUR CHILD SAFE DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR!



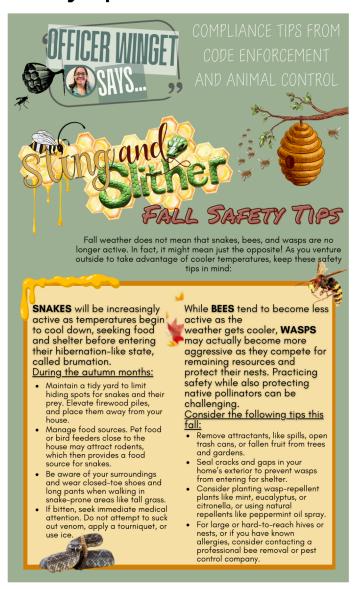
# **Woodway Public Safety Department Safety Tips (continued)**



Our beautiful Texas Hill Country experienced an unimaginable tragedy over the summer, reminding us all of how quickly Mother Nature can shift from calm to catastrophe. While flooding on that scale is not common, emergency rescues during more isolated flooding events are not unusual. Help us keep you safe by learning more about one of the most powerful and dangerous forces on our planet.

#### FLOOD AND FLASH FLOOD SAFETY





### **Woodway History**

Unbuckle your seatbelt and unlock the doors

EXIT THE VEHICLE SAFELY (IF POSSIBLE)

being swept away or water is entering the passenger cabin.

• Open windows if possible, as doors may be hard to open due

 Exit the vehicle and move to higher ground immediately, avoiding walking through fast-moving water.



- THE POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS WERE COMBINED IN 1975, BECOMING THE PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT.
- CITY OFFICES WERE LOCATED AT 200 SHARRON DRIVE UNTIL MARCH 1992.
- WOODWAY HAS HAD 9 CITY MANAGERS AND 18 MAYORS IN THE 70 YEARS SINCE INCORPORATION



### **City Office Closures**





### Save the Date for Large Item Pickup!

The City offers two complimentary Large Item Pickup Days a year, typically in April and October, for citizens. These dates are scheduled in collaboration with Frontier Waste Solutions and will fall on your second trash day of the week.

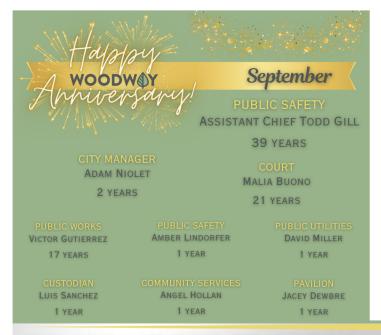
Please limit the number of items placed curbside. Televisions & tires must be brought to the landfill to dispose of, and refrigerators must be tagged by a licensed professional to be picked up curbside. No hazardous waste is collected on these dates.

\*To schedule an additional Large Item Pickup, contact Customer Service at City Hall at 254.772.4480 or email customerservice@woodwaytexas.gov. The cost for the additional service is \$85.05.





### **Woodway Staff Anniversaries**





### HONORING OUR STAFF FOR YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

### Yard of the Month Winners



YARD OF THE MONTH WINNERS

July 2025

THE GEIGER FAMILY



YARD OF THE MONTH WINNERS

August 2025

THE SANFORD FAMILY

Please email nominations to: RWINGET@WOODWAYTEXAS.GOV



### **Summer Concert Series Recap**

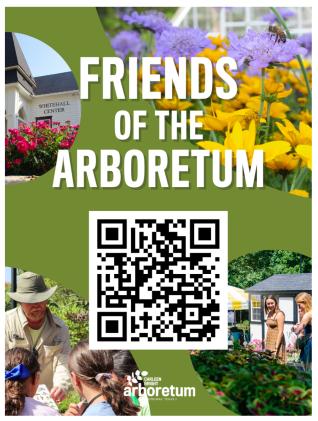


Woodway's Summer Concert Series wrapped up another successful season of live music, delicious food, and community fun at the Carleen Bright Arboretum. Guests enjoyed warm summer evenings filled with great performances, tasty eats from local food trucks, and the beautiful backdrop of the Arboretum grounds. Thank you to everyone who came out to enjoy the music and make this summer's series a memorable one—we can't wait to see you again next year!

### Friends of the Arboretum

Support the beauty, growth, and community programs of the Carleen Bright Arboretum through our Friends of the Arboretum donation program. With three membership tiers—Seed, Sapling, and Red Oak—you can choose the level that's right for you, each offering unique benefits in appreciation of your support. Scan the QR code to learn more and join us in preserving and enhancing this special space for generations to come.







# Woodway Family Center: Upcoming Program Highlights



Feel the Beat, Move Your Feet!
Two drumsticks. One beat. Endless fun.

**DrumFIT** is not your average workout—it's a full-on rhythm party for our 55 & Better crew! You'll be drumming on giant stability balls, grooving to upbeat music, and sneaking in some heart-pumping cardio and strength moves without even realizing it. Throw in a dash of line dancing, laughter, and BOOM—you've got the most fun you can have while exercising.

No rhythm? No problem. If you can tap your toe or wave your stick in the air, you're ready to rock!

Join the jam at the Woodway Family Center Party Room from 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM every Monday. Let's make some serious noise, Woodway—because workouts should feel like a celebration!

# Bounce, Shoot, Score!

One ball. Big dreams. Pure fun.

The 2025 WFC Basketball League is a slam-dunk adventure for kids ages 5–12! From dribbling and passing to shooting hoops and cheering on teammates, players will build skills, confidence, and plenty of laughs along the way. With games, practices, and friendly competition, every session is all about learning, playing, and having a blast.

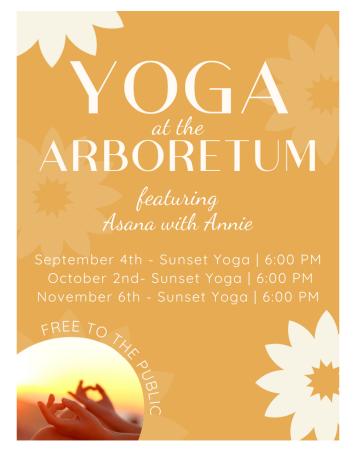
Catch the action at the Woodway Family Center Gym, with practices starting December 2nd and games running January 13th – March 14th. Let's make this season unforgettable—because basketball should feel like a celebration

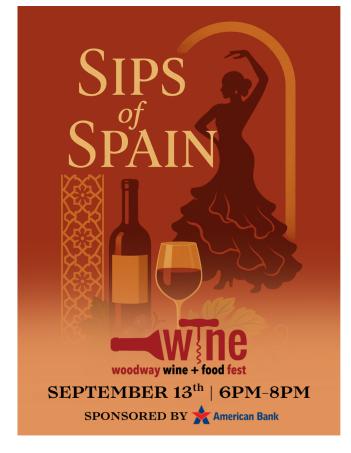
Registration opens October 1st and closes November 14th.

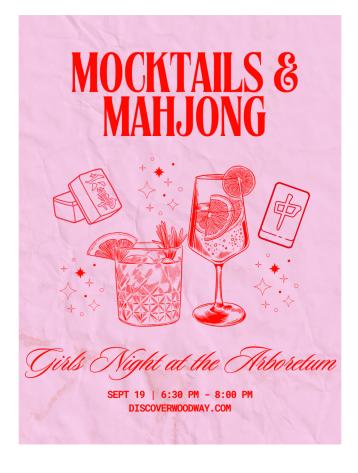


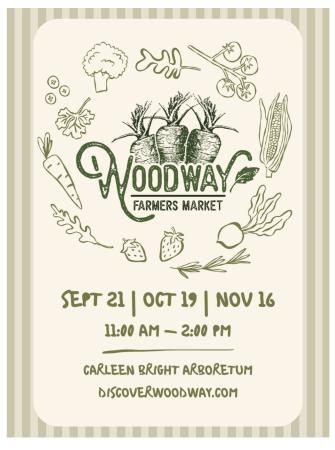


# Fall Festivities and Fun with Discover Woodway!







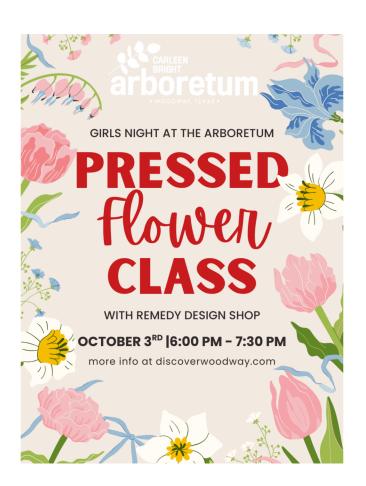


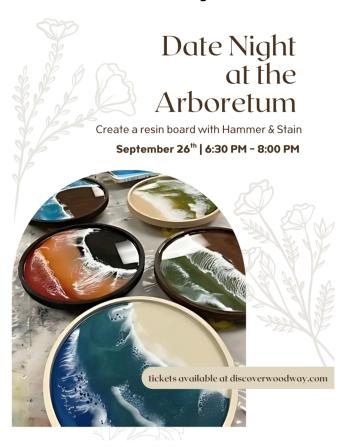


# More Fall Festivities and Fun with Discover Woodway!













### Halloween Weekend





### **Woodway Traditions**

As summer winds down, plenty of people are looking forward to cooler weather, football games, and pumpkin spice. Around here, our list of fall traditions also includes some of the most popular and meaningful Discover Woodway events of the year.

The Halloween fun kicks off a week early, so get your costumes ready! Join us on Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup> for the All Hallows Groove concert at the Carleen Bright Arboretum, and then take a ride through the Activity Park on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> for the annual Cops & Kids Halloween Drive-Thru!

On November 6<sup>th</sup>, we will host our annual Veterans Breakfast. This beloved tradition offers us the opportunity to give something back to these brave individuals who served our nation. Music will be provided by local students and volunteers, and our keynote speaker will be Baylor's First Gentleman, Mr. Brad Livingstone.

