

# COMMUNITY CONNECTION

NOVEMBER 2020

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

As the City continues to navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic, we have worked closely with the Williamson County and Cities Health District (WCCHD) to make decisions that would be in the best interest of the health and safety of Taylor residents.

In September, the City adopted a new phased-in plan for reopening the City, using mitigation guidance from the Williamson County and Cities Health District (WCCHD). The color-coded plan has four phases, ranging in severity from Uncontrolled Community Spread (Red) to Minimal Community Spread (Green). Each level lessens restrictions with respect to social gatherings, municipal building openings, public meetings, and indoor and outdoor events.

You can view what phase the City is currently operating under as well as a chart that details the guidance for reopening on the City's website at [www.taylortx.gov](http://www.taylortx.gov). You can also find more information about the WCCHD and view the County's phase-in plan at [www.wcchd.org](http://www.wcchd.org).

As we move forward, we hope that we can continue to see COVID-19 numbers decline in the County and the City. I would like to remind everyone to keep practicing CDC guidelines: wash your hands often, avoid close contact by keeping 6 ft. from other people, cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face covering when around others and stay home if you are feeling ill.

**BRIAN LABORDE**  
City Manager

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARD OF POTTING SOIL

Many may not be aware of the dangers that potting soil have in causing preventable house fires. The danger comes when individuals use pots containing soil to extinguish cigarettes. The City of Taylor Fire Department and Fire Marshal's Office want to make sure Taylor residents are informed about this household hazard and offer ways to keep themselves and those in their household safe.

Many potting soils are comprised of several different components most of which are not dirt. Commercially, dirt is heavy and inhibits drainage for the plant, therefore potting soils are commonly made from mulch, barks, peat moss, compost, and waste plant fibers from other processes. Potting soils may also contain fertilizers which can be oxidizers and can accelerate the burning of combustible material. The Taylor Fire Department advises residents not to use pots containing potting soil as an ashtray.

Smokers should consider extinguishing cigarettes in other



sources such as:

- Ashtrays
- An unburnable, unmeltable container with sand
- A commercial cigarette receptacle

It is also important to make sure households are equipped with a fire extinguisher and working smoke alarms. Test smoke alarms every month and replace 9-volt smoke alarm batteries at least once every year. The U.S. Fire Administration also recommends replacing fire alarms every 10 years.

## BACKFLOW PREVENTION & CONTAMINATION LETTERS BEING SENT TO RESIDENTS

The City of Taylor, with help from Vepo LLC, will be sending letters to Taylor residents with irrigation backflow assemblies on the first of each month. If you have never received a letter, this is not a new requirement. Letters have been sent in the past but not at the current scale. The City's Water Department is every day finding irrigation backflow assemblies that have never been tested and they are being added to the list for testing. The backflow assembly test is a state requirement through Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and is maintained through the City. Residents are required to have their backflow assembly tested every two years and commercial businesses are required to test every year. This test is to ensure the Public Water System stays safe, clean, and free of pesticides and fertilizers that may be added to the yards, as well as bacteria that can enter the public water supply through a faulty backflow prevention system. If you have any questions, please contact the City of Taylor Water Department at 512-365-1422.



## CITY OF TAYLOR WASTEWATER AVERAGING

As a reminder, the City of Taylor conducts its annual sewer averaging from late November through March. The months that are used are typically the lowest consumption months of the year. These three months are averaged to get the sewer rates for the next 12 months.

Prior to the averaging period you are advised to repair any leaky faucets or running toilets and any other water leaks. This will avoid a high usage month during the averaging period and help to keep your sewer rate down.

WASTEWATER AVERAGING PERIOD PER ZONE			
<i>To find your zone, look at the payment coupon of your water bill next to the billing address.</i>			
	SERVICE DATES	BILLING DATES	NEW RATE APPEARS ON BILL DATE
ZONE 1	11/23/20 – 2/23/21	1/5/21, 2/5/21, 3/5/21	4/5/21
ZONE 2	12/4/20 – 3/4/21	1/12/21, 2/12/21, 3/12/21	4/12/21
ZONE 3	12/10/20 – 3/12/21	1/19/21, 2/19/21, 3/19/21	4/19/21
ZONE 4	12/17/20 – 3/18/21	1/26/21, 2/26/21, 3/26/21	4/26/21

## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR TRASH/RECYCLING

The City's Waste Collection Services will be closed on **Thursday, November 26**, in observance of Thanksgiving. If you are scheduled for pickup on November 26, trash services will be delayed by one day.

The City's Waste Collection Service will also be closed on **Friday, December 25**, in observance of Christmas. If you are scheduled for pickup on Friday, December 25, through Sunday, December 27, your service will be the next day.

The same schedule will apply the following week in accordance with New Year's Day, January 1.



## TAYLOR PUBLIC LIBRARY CALENDAR

Online Storytime:

**Nov 4** - Balloons  
**Nov 11** - Veterans Day  
**Nov 18** - Thanksgiving  
**Nov 25** - Baking



The Library will be closed for Veterans Day on Wednesday November 11, and Thanksgiving Day on Thursday, November 26.

## COVID-19 RESOURCES

### CITY OF TAYLOR

**Online:**  
[bit.ly/TaylorCovid](http://bit.ly/TaylorCovid)

**COVID-19 Información en Español del CDC:**  
[bit.ly/COVIDEspanol](http://bit.ly/COVIDEspanol)

**On Facebook:**  
[@cityoftaylortexas](http://@cityoftaylortexas)

**On Twitter:**  
[@CityofTaylor](http://@CityofTaylor)

**On NextDoor:**  
City of Taylor

### WILLIAMSON COUNTY & CITIES HEALTH DISTRICT (WCCHD)

**Online:**  
[www.wcchd.org](http://www.wcchd.org)

**On Facebook:**  
[@WCCHD](http://@WCCHD)

**On Twitter:**  
[@WCCHD](http://@WCCHD)

**WCCHD COVID-19 Non Emergency Hotline:**  
512-943-3600

### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

**6 p.m. Thursday: November 12; December 10**

Council meetings are currently being held virtually until further notice. Watch meetings live online or taped recordings at [www.taylortx.gov](http://www.taylortx.gov).

### HOLIDAY CLOSURES

City offices will be closed on:  
**Wednesday, November 11 (Veterans Day)**  
**Thursday & Friday, November 26 & 27 (Thanksgiving)**  
**Thursday & Friday, December 24 & 25 (Christmas Eve and Christmas Day)**