

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

DECEMBER 2020

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Taylor
Texas

CITY OF TAYLOR TX

A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

2020 was certainly not what we expected it to be when it started. But as this year comes to a close and we look toward new beginnings for 2021, I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to not only the Taylor community, but also to our staff and Council.

I appreciate the community's patience with us as we navigated uncharted waters in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. I am thankful for the community's willingness to keep Taylor safe during this pandemic, for helping adhere to CDC guidelines, for listening to our officials from the Williamson County and Cities Health District, and for caring for one another and our businesses.

The City has had to make tough decisions and I am thankful for the guidance and leadership that our City Council members provided as we navigated uncharted territory in determining how best to serve our residents and keep them safe.

I would also like to thank City staff for their hard work and flexibility this year. All of the City departments have played a crucial role in making sure there is a continuity in operations and I appreciate their willingness to make the necessary adjustments to keep their colleagues and the City safe. We truly have an amazing team here at the City of Taylor and I am proud to be part of it.

I hope that everyone has a great Christmas holiday and everyone continues to be mindful and stay safe. I look forward to seeing what 2021 brings the City of Taylor.

BRIAN LABORDE
City Manager

PARKS ADDS MEMORIAL BENCH PROGRAM

The City of Taylor Parks and Recreation Department is excited to announce it has recently added a Memorial Bench Program.

Memorial Benches offer a way for Taylor residents to honor a special person, place, or thing while adding to the overall quality of life in Taylor. The intention of the Memorial Bench Program is to offer citizens a way to remember loved ones and/or honor individuals or groups in a visible, lasting way. Benches are available at Bull Branch, Murphy, and Fannie Robinson Parks.

The total cost to purchase a memorial bench with a plaque is \$3,400. The cost includes the bench itself, installation, engraving, and a concrete slab. If an existing concrete slab can be utilized, the fee will be reduced by the cost of pouring new concrete. Money for the benches will be donated to the City of Taylor, in the name of the person or group.



The City or its designee, will then purchase the benches and install them. Benches will be secured either to existing concrete or on a new concrete slab. These items become the property of the City and its residents.

For more information, visit www.taylortx.gov.

RESIDENTS MAY NEED TO REGISTER CARPORT

Do you have a carport that was built between April 2001 and June 2020? If so, you may need to register it with the City of Taylor to ensure it can remain in place. If your carport was constructed during the timeframe above and did not receive a City permit, you need to contact the City of Taylor Development Services Department to register your carport and receive a safety inspection.

The City is offering a waiver of the permit and inspection fee for those residents who register their carports and receive a safety inspection prior to June 1, 2021. Residents who do not meet the June 1, 2021 deadline may be required to remove their



carport or seek a special permit and pay permitting and inspection fees.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the City's Development Services Department at 512-365-3863.

COMMUNITY CONNECTION IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF TAYLOR
400 PORTER STREET | TAYLOR, TX | 76574 | 512.352.3675 |



TEMPORARY SUSPENSIONS OF SERVICE DISCONNECTS ENDING IN JANUARY

When COVID-19 came to Taylor, the City recognized that this could make it hard for some of our utility customers to stay current on their utility bills so the Finance Department temporarily suspended utility service disconnects and the assessing of late fees.

The temporary suspension of service disconnects and the waiver of the late fees that the City of Taylor implemented as a response to COVID-19 is ending soon. Beginning with the January billing cycle, the City will be reinstating the normal practice of charging late fees and disconnecting service for customers who have delinquent utility bills. If your utility bill is delinquent, please contact the Utility Billing department at 512-352-2066 to discuss your options.

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 |

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX FLOAT CONTEST

The Taylor Public Library will be holding a Christmas Shoebox Float contest. The contest is open to traditional parade participants (businesses, schools, churches, clubs, community organizations and municipal departments and families.

Limit one entry per group with the exception of schools or municipalities may have multiple entries if representing distinct clubs or departments. Floats can be made from a traditional cardboard shoebox or similar structure. Entries should be no larger than 10" x 13". Do not use wheels or

build floats on a truck body or motorized toy. Floats must be appropriate for a family audience. Use of political or social material is prohibited. Affix entry card to the bottom of the float. Entry forms can be found online at www.taylor.tx.gov. Entries must be received by the Library no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 11. Please schedule appointment to drop off float by calling the Library at 512-352-3434.

The Parade will premier on December 14 on the Taylor Public Library Facebook page. Contest winners will be announced Dec. 18.

RESIDENTS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATES

The City of Taylor kicked off an update to our comprehensive plan in September. The comprehensive plan is the City's guiding policy document and includes policies and strategies for new development, housing, transportation, neighborhood improvements and more.

Two events were held in September. The first was a live webinar with Charles Marohn, Jr. of Strong Towns. The second was an online community meeting where the City's consultants presented information about the link between our land use pattern and the City's financial resiliency and facilitated feedback from the community on their hopes for the future of Taylor. Recordings of both meetings, an online poll and other resources are available on the comprehensive plan web site at taylor.konveio.com.

The next phase of public engagement for the plan will be after the first of the year when the community will have a chance to weigh in on different growth scenarios. The date for that meeting will be posted on the web site once it is scheduled.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR TRASH/RECYCLING

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**.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

6 p.m. Thursday: December 10: January 14, 28; February 11, 25

Council meetings are currently being held virtually until further notice. Watch meetings live online or taped recordings at www.taylor.tx.gov.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

City offices will be closed on:
Thursday & Friday, December 24 & 25
(Christmas Eve and Christmas Day)
Friday, January 1
(New Year's Day)
Monday, January 18
(Martin Luther King Jr. Day)