

# COMMUNITY CONNECTION NEWSLETTER



## October 2022 | In This Edition

- [City Manager Message](#)
- [Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget Approved](#)
- [Upcoming Winter Averaging for Wastewater Rates](#)
- [Utility Rate changes go into effect October 1](#)
- [Arts Board Sets Public Input Session](#)
- [Main Street Car Show Back Oct. 29](#)
- [A Message From Your Taylor Fire Department](#)
- [Upcoming Events Calendar](#)
- [Library Calendar](#)
- [City Council Meetings](#)
- [Holiday Closures](#)

## City Manager Message



Another fiscal year is beginning, which means a new budget with new priorities. The City of Taylor Finance Department and staff worked hard this summer to create the FY 2022-23 Budget, with an emphasis on putting plans from previous years into action.

The theme for this year's budget is "Moving Forward." Taylor has spent the last few years planning for growth, and now it's time to begin moving forward with implementation of our growth strategy. The City will begin to move forward with work outlined in the Master Drainage Plan and continued street maintenance. In the FY 2022-23 Budget we have restructured our Transportation User Fee (TUF) and Municipal Drainage Utility System (MDUS) funds to provide more resources for ongoing street and drainage maintenance instead of debt service. This restructuring will also help aid in moving forward with our Master Drainage Plan and street maintenance.

The new TUF plan will allow our Public Works Department to hire three additional employees to help with our street maintenance which will be funded through collected TUF funds. This will bring our current staffing of five personnel to a crew of eight. These new employees will work full time on streets, continuing the work of our levelup program, crack sealing in the fall and winter as time allows, cleaning and spraying curbs, fixing

street cuts for the water division, and potholing.

Also, through MDUS funding the City will start a full-time drainage crew. This four-person crew will be dedicated only to drainage repairs. They will cut channels up to six times a year (up from the current three times a year), repair and replace culverts, perform drainage repair, and clean ditches along roads. The crew can also be used for any washouts in our parks systems.

The City continues to make our streets and drainage a priority. Our goal with these programs is to create a foundation for consistent street and drainage work throughout the year so that our residents, visitors, and business owners can drive on dependable, safe streets and roads and feel safe in the knowledge that our infrastructure is sound.

My thanks to the Finance Department and all of the city staff who helped create this year's budget. I look forward to seeing our plans put into action!

Sincerely,

**Brian LaBorde**  
*City Manager*

## **Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget Approved**

The City of Taylor adopted the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 budget at the September 9 City Council meeting.

Growth has started in Taylor and all signs point that it will continue for several years to come. Taylor has anticipated this growth for many years and has formally planned for it by completing a new Comprehensive Plan, a Drainage Master Plan, a Street Analysis & Improvement Plan and a Parks Master Plan. This year's budget reflects the moving forward that these plans call for.

Some of the highlights from FY 2022-23 budget include:

- Reduces the tax rate by more than 11.5 cents per \$100 (the lowest tax rate since 1999)
- Increases the Over 65 Exemption by \$10,000, bringing it to \$40,000 per household
- Creates new Disabled Persons Exemption at \$40,000 per household
- Includes funding for projects related to recently completed Parks Master Plan
- Continues funding for four new HOMES program houses
- Maintains funding for Public Arts

The FY 2022-23 budget allocates \$48.3M to Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) which includes in part the purchase of new equipment, creation of a Trails Master Plan, Wastewater Treatment Plant rehabilitation, and improvements to the Doris Roznovak Aquatic Center.



## Upcoming Winter Averaging for Wastewater Rates

For residential customers with a City of Taylor utility bill, the City bases monthly wastewater charges on the average water consumption for November, December, January, and February. The three lowest consumptions are then averaged and used to calculate your wastewater charge for the entire year. An account must be active the entire four months to establish an average. All new accounts will be charged the new customer average until the account has established its own winter average.

Prior to the averaging period, residents are advised to repair leaky faucets, running toilets and any other water leaks. This will avoid a high usage month during the averaging period and help keep your sewer rate down. Averages cannot be adjusted for lawn watering or pool filling.

For commercial wastewater customers, charges are based on actual monthly water consumption.

Wastewater Averaging Period Per Zone:

	Service Dates		Billing Dates				Date New Rate Appears on Bill
	Start	End	Nov. Services	Dec. Services	Jan. Services	Feb. Services	
Zone 1	10/17/2022	2/17/2023	12/5/2022	1/5/2023	2/5/2023	3/5/2023	4/5/2023
Zone 2	10/24/2022	2/24/2023	12/12/2022	1/12/2023	2/12/2023	3/12/2023	4/12/2023
Zone 3	11/1/2022	3/1/2023	12/19/2022	1/19/2023	2/19/2023	3/19/2023	4/19/2023
Zone 4	11/9/2022	3/9/2023	12/26/2022	1/26/2023	2/26/2023	3/26/2023	4/26/2023

## Utility Rate changes go into effect October 1

As City of Taylor utility customers begin receiving their October water bills, they will notice a change in water and wastewater rates. The water and wastewater rate analysis, completed by a third-party rate consultant, recommended the rate increases that were approved in the FY 2022-23 Fee Schedule. All rate changes are effective October 1,

2022, and reflect an increase in the base rate and consumption. For more details visit the Utility Billing department at [www.taylor.tx.gov](http://www.taylor.tx.gov).

- The average residential customer uses a standard 5/8" meter and 5,000 gallons of water and wastewater per month. This resident will see an increase of \$10.80 per month in their total bill starting October 1. This includes an increase of \$5.46 for water service and \$5.34 for wastewater service.
- The average commercial customer uses a 5/8" meter and 15,000 gallons of water and wastewater per month. This customer will see an increase of \$21.79 per month in their total bill starting October 1. This includes an increase of \$10.85 for water service and \$10.94 for wastewater service.



## Arts Board Sets Public Input Session

The Taylor Public Arts Advisory Board will hold a public listening session to gather input as part of its strategic planning efforts. A previous session was held on Sept. 27.

The session will be held:

- 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15, at the Dickey-Givens Community Center

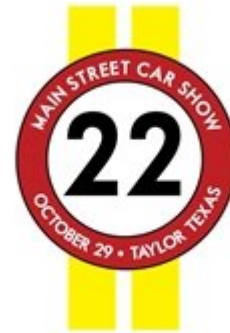
The session will include white board activities designed to determine the kinds of art Taylor residents are interested to see, where art should be located and, in general, what subject matter should be addressed.

Some current examples of public art in Taylor include the bronze statue of Bill Pickett, painted portals along the hike and bike trail and murals on several buildings in the downtown area and in Potters Alley.

For those who want to participate but who are unable to attend the session, there is a brief survey posted here: [Public Input Survey](#).

## Main Street Car Show Back Oct. 29

Join us in Historic Downtown Taylor for the biggest car show in Central Texas! This year will be our 9th Annual Taylor Main Street Car Show, and it's a great family-friendly event. In addition to cars, we'll have live music, shopping, food trailers and more.



### Car Registration

We have opened registration for the 2022 Main Street Car Show participants. The Car Show will be held on Saturday, October 29, 2022. The show itself is open from 10 AM until 4 PM but we will open the gates to start parking vehicles at 7 AM. The tickets this year will be \$15.00 (cash/check) for early registration and \$25.00 for registration on the day of the show. [Click here for more information about registration.](#)

Entry fees for vehicles in the Main Street Car Show will cost \$25.00 on the day of the show. At this time, we will only be taking cash or checks for fees on October 29.

### Vendor Registration

We are now accepting vendors for the upcoming Main Street Car Show on Saturday, October 29, 2022 from 10 AM to 4 PM. Please return your completed application and fee



at your earliest convenience to be included in this year's event.

### [2022 MSCS Vendor Application](#)

The deadline for vendor applications is October 21, 2022. However, you are strongly urged to secure your space early as we limit the number of vendors selling similar products at the Main Street Car Show. Booths are priced by size: a 10' x 10' booth is \$100.00; a 10' x 20' booth is \$200.00 and a 10' x 30' booth is \$300.00. All vendors will need to provide their own tents (with 30# weights for each leg), tables and chairs.

#### Questions

For any questions, please contact Main Street Manager Jan Harris at [jan.harris@taylortx.gov](mailto:jan.harris@taylortx.gov) or by phone at 512-352-3463.

[Click here to view a video from the 2021 Main Street Car Show](#)



## **A Message From Your Taylor Fire Department**

We would like to congratulate all of the 2022 Honor Guard Academy graduates! This year, we had our largest class to date with 66 graduates coming from all over Texas and Louisiana.

The Honor Guard Academy is held each year in Taylor by the Taylor Fire Department and Taylor Professional Firefighters Association. It's recognized by the Texas Line of Duty Death Task Force and TEEX.

The Honor Guard Academy teaches firefighters and other emergency personnel the fundamental elements of honor guard duties. [Click here to learn more about the Taylor Honor Guard Academy.](#)



## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT TUESDAY 10.04.22

TAYLOR, TEXAS  
5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.



TOGETHER, WE ARE  
MAKING COMMUNITIES  
SAFER, MORE CARING  
PLACES TO LIVE AND WORK

BLOCK PARTY REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!  
VISIT [WWW.TAYLORTX.GOV/POLICE](http://WWW.TAYLORTX.GOV/POLICE) FOR MORE INFORMATION

## Upcoming Events Calendar

To stay up to date on city events, be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter, and check the Community Calendar on the [City's website](#).

### October

- **Tuesday, October 4** | 5-9 PM | **National Night Out** - Join the Taylor Police Department for National Night Out! NNO involves more than 38.6 million neighborhoods across 16,790 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide. Block Party registration is open! [Click here to register.](#)
- **Saturday, October 8** | 8 AM | **Taylor, TX Good Life 5K** - Sign up for the 10th annual Good Life 5K held the second Saturday in October in Bull Branch Park. Visit [www.goodlifetaylor.com](http://www.goodlifetaylor.com) for more information and to sign up.
- **Thursday, October 20** | 6:30 PM | **Music on Main featuring Taylor Czech Chorus and Czech Melody Masters** - Join the Taylor Public Arts Advisory Board and Main Street Advisory Board for a FREE concert in Heritage Square Park.
- **Saturday, October 22** | 10 AM - 2 PM | **Fire Department Open House** - The Taylor Fire Department will hold an open house at Station 1 (200 Washburn). Come out and meet your Taylor firefighters, tour the station, and learn about your fire trucks. There will be exhibits on smoke alarms, fire extinguishers and home safety.

- **Saturday, October 29** | 10 AM - 4 PM | **Main Street Car Show** - Join us in Historic Downtown Taylor for the biggest car show in Central Texas! This year will be our 9th Annual Taylor Main Street Car Show, and it's a great family-friendly event. In addition to cars, we'll have live music, shopping, food trailers and more! This exciting event has expanded to multiple streets over the years and now brings in 10,000 attendees annually.
- **Monday, October 31** | 6-8 PM | **Spooktacular Scare on the Square** - Come all you ghosts and ghouls to the annual Spooktacular Scare on the Square in Heritage Square Park. There will be vendors, plenty of candy and a costume contest by the Taylor Public Library.

## November

- **Thursday, November 17** | 7 PM | **Music on Main featuring Honey Made** - Join the Taylor Public Arts Advisory Board and Main Street Advisory Board for a FREE concert in Heritage Square Park.

## Library Calendar

The [Taylor Public Library](#) is located at 801 Vance St. in Taylor.

### CURRENT OPERATING HOURS:

Monday/Wednesday 9 AM - 6 PM

Tuesday/Thursday 9 AM - 8 PM

Friday 12 noon - 6 PM

Saturday 11 AM - 4 PM



### October Calendar:

- **Saturday, October 1** | Start accepting entries to the No Carve Pumpkin Decorating contest
- **Wednesday, October 5** | *Preschool Story Time 10:30 AM* - Theme is World Teacher's Day.
- **Saturday, October 8** | *Sewing Saturday at 10 AM*
- **Wednesday, October 12** | *Preschool Story Time 10:30 AM* - Theme is TBA.
- **Wednesday, October 19** | *Preschool Story Time 10:30 AM* - Theme is cooking.
- **Saturday, October 22** | 4 PM - Deadline to bring in entries for No Carve Pumpkin Decorating Contest
- **Monday October 24 - Saturday October 29** | Vote on your favorite decorated pumpkin! Winners announced 10/31.
- **Wednesday October 26** | *Preschool Story Time 10:30 AM* - Theme is Halloween.
- **Monday, October 31** | *Spooktacular Costume Contest at Heritage Square Park 6 - 8 PM*

## City Council Meetings

Council meetings are held at 6 p.m. the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at City Hall, 400 Porter Street.(unless otherwise noted)

Council will meet:

- October 13, 27
- November 10
- December 8

Live streaming of Council meetings and taped recordings are available [on our website](#).

## Holiday Closures

City offices will be closed on the following dates:

- Friday, Nov. 11 (Veterans Day)
- Thursday & Friday, Nov. 24 & 25 (Thanksgiving)



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