

COMMUNITY CONNECTION NEWSLETTER



March 2023

City of Taylor Donation Program

You can now make a donation to the City of Taylor online. This convenient online payments page includes options to donate to:

- the Animal Shelter
- the Library
- Parks and Recreation
- Public Arts
- Directly to the Fred Kerley Mural.

Donations may be used by the City for any purpose within the category selected.

[Click Here to Make a Donation](#)



City Manager Message

Last month, the City was impacted by Winter Storm Mara that brought us several rounds of rain and freezing precipitation. Many residents experienced power outages and since the storm, we have continued clean up efforts due to downed tree branches and brush.

I want to take this time to thank our City staff for the amazing job they did during this storm. Our Public Works and Parks and Recreation crews were out clearing debris in roadways. Our Water and Wastewater team was able to ensure the water systems

stayed operational throughout the power outages. And our police and fire departments continued to respond to emergency calls throughout the event. I can't thank our team enough for their leadership and dedication during this winter storm.

We made sure to implement an Emergency Operations Center that met several times through out the day during the event to provide updates and push out vital information to our residents. And after the winter storm passed, our Public Works Department continued to coordinate to quickly set up a debris drop-off point for residents that were beginning clean up efforts and coordinated with getting CTC Disaster Response to bring in trucks to begin picking up debris from residents' homes and businesses.

The City has endured several of these winter storm events in the past few years and I continue to be impressed and proud of the work of our City staff. I've said it many times before, but the staff here at the City of Taylor is truly a group of dedicated individuals that I am proud to work with every day. I can't thank them enough for their hard work not just when a crisis happens but day in and day out.

I would also like to encourage residents to visit our Emergency Resources page on our website for helpful storm recovery information and updates: [EMERGENCY UPDATES AND RESOURCES | Taylor, TX - Official Website \(taylortx.gov\)](#).

Sincerely,

Brian LaBorde

City Manager

Set Up Your Utility Bill Payment Online Today

Did you know the City of Taylor offers auto-pay for your monthly utility bill? This stress-free payment option is the safe, reliable, convenient way to pay your utility bill. With auto-pay, you never have to worry about a late payment again. You set the monthly payment date that works for you and choose the method of payment. Simply set it and forget it.



You can conveniently enroll in auto-pay online or in-person for your monthly City of Taylor utility bill. There is no cost to enroll in auto-pay and you can cancel anytime.

Want to know more or explore additional online options? View your account details including transaction and consumption history online. In addition to managing auto-pay, you can schedule or make a one-time payment. You can also manage your billing preferences by signing up for e-billing and setting email reminders for auto-pay payments.

Visit the City's online payment website at
<https://www.municipalonlinepayments.com/taylortx> today!



Members of the Taylor community, City of Taylor Parks and Recreation Department, Good Life Taylor, Taylor Chamber of Commerce and City Council celebrated the official opening of Percussion Park, located inside Murphy Park, with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday, Feb. 18.

Ribbon Cutting Held for Percussion Park Feb. 18

The City of Taylor Parks and Recreation Department, in partnership with Good Life Taylor, held an official ribbon cutting ceremony for Percussion Park on Saturday, Feb. 18. The playground is located in Murphy Park between the lake and the swimming pool.

The concept for the playground was originally brought to the City by Good Life Taylor, an organization founded in 2012 to promote healthy families and outdoor activities. The playground was created in the shape of a musical treble clef and features an ensemble of functioning musical playground pieces. The idea was to create a vibrant, creative, musical space within the City's parks system where people of all ages can gather, create music, and enjoy the outdoors.

Funding for Percussion Park was made possible in part by a grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Local Park Grant Program that was approved by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission in August 2020. Additional funds were provided through donations raised by Good Life Taylor and a portion of the City of Taylor 2018 Bond Fund. SEC Planning was hired to design the playground, installation was done by Craftsman Commercial Playgrounds and landscaping was completed by LandArt America. Bids were approved by Council in February 2022 and construction began in April 2022.

In addition to the ribbon cutting ceremony, the organization Soulshine Rhythm Experience brought drums and other instruments for attendees to play and led the group in some fun drum and rhythm exercises. We would like to thank everyone for coming out and helping us celebrate!



February Sales Tax Numbers

The City of Taylor has released the actual and cumulative sales tax numbers for the month of February and posted them to the City's website. The sales and use tax revenue reported for the City in February 2023 was \$2,494,516, an increase of more than \$1.8 million (267%) over the same time last year. The cumulative sales and use tax revenue through February 2023 is \$8,164,224, an increase of over \$5.5 million (210.8%) over the same period in 2021. In November 2022, the City began releasing a report on the third Tuesday of every month detailing the cumulative and actual numbers from the last four months of the year and compare them to the three prior years.

Increased sales tax revenue is a positive for Taylor residents for several reasons. A majority of the revenue in the City's General Fund is made up of ad valorem, or property tax that is charged to residents, and sales and use tax that is charged to anyone who purchases goods and services in the City. When sales and use tax revenues are up, it can help lower the property tax rate. Between the increased construction use taxes from the Samsung Semiconductor construction project, and an influx of visitors and businesses in our City, the City has seen an upward trend in sales and use tax numbers that we expect will continue in the coming years.

The next report will be released on Tuesday, March 21. For more information and to view the report, visit Finance section of the City's website [by clicking here](#).

Save the Date: Blackland Prairie Day Will Be Held On Saturday, May 6

Mark your calendars! Taylor's annual Blackland Prairie Day will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 6, in historic Downtown Taylor.

This free event honors the rich cultural heritage of Taylor, where local goods and friendly people are in abundance. We'll have live music, food vendors, booths, kids' activities and more! We also have over two dozen locally owned small businesses in downtown Taylor, so come grab your friends and family and enjoy this annual festival and shop local.



If you're interested in becoming a vendor, contact Main Street Manager Jan Harris at 512-352-3463 or email [Jan Harris](#). Vendor applications are being accepted through April 28.

More information available on our [website](#).



A Message from the Taylor Fire Dept.

On March 12, we will set our clocks to spring forward as Daylight Saving Time begins.

This is a great time to change the batteries in your smoke alarms and check to ensure they work properly.

A working smoke alarm will sacrifice its life for its family's; take care of your smoke alarm like your life depends on it because it does.

If you need assistance changing your batteries or if you do not have a working smoke alarm in your home, you can contact your Taylor Fire Department at 512-352-6992 to have one installed free of charge.

Car Seat Check Event March 23

Is your child riding safely? Join Dell Children's Ascension, Kids in Cars and the Taylor Fire Department for a car seat check event on Thursday, March 23, from 9 AM to noon at the Taylor Fire Station 1, 200 Washburn St.



A child passenger safety technician will be checking car seats for use and installation. This will be by appointment only. Contact Kids in Cars at 512-324-8687.

Seats will be available for families at no cost if criteria is met.



Warrant Round-up April 1

The Taylor Municipal Court will be participating in a warrant round-up on Saturday, April 1. Court will be open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. while officers go door-to-door. Defendants that come in voluntarily will not be arrested.

All warrant fees will be waived if a defendant pays in full between March 1 and April 1. The court will also offer assistance to those who may not be able to pay in full and will work out an agreeable action for anyone who is willing to make the effort to come in and clear up their warrants.

Warrants can be paid online at [Municipal Court | Taylor, TX - Official Website \(taylortx.gov\)](#), by mail to 109 W. 5th St., Taylor, TX 76574 or in person.

For questions, call 512-352-5977.

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](#).

March

- **Thursday, March 23 | 9 AM - noon | Car Seat Check Event** - Join Dell Children's Ascension, Kids in Cars and the Taylor Fire Department for a car seat check event on Thursday, March 23, from 9 AM to noon at the Taylor Fire Station 1, 200 Washburn St. A child passenger safety technician will be checking car seats for use and installation. This will be by appointment only. Contact Kids in Cars at 512-324-8687. Seats will be available for families at no cost if criteria is met.
- **Saturday, March 25 | 11 AM - 2 PM | Taylor Public Library Plant Swap** - Free for all ages. Bring plants and get plants. All children get a free plant. Hosted by the Friends of the Taylor Public Library. At the Taylor Public Library, 801 Vance. St.
- **Saturday, March 28 | 5:30 - 7:30 PM | Taylor Public Library's Sweet Sixteen** - Come celebrate 16 awesome years serving the community! At the Taylor Public Library, 801 Vance St.

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

Sunday: closed

March Calendar:

- **Wednesday, March 1 | 10:30 AM: Preschool Story Time - "Flowers"**
- **Wednesday, March 8 | 10:30 AM: Preschool Story Time - "Hair"**
- **Wednesday, March 15 | No story time this week**

- **Wednesday, March 22** | 10:30 AM: *Preschool Story Time - "Rainbows"*
- **Wednesday, March 29** | 10:30 AM: *Preschool Story Time - "Snails"*

Spring Break at the Library - March 13-17

- **Monday, March 13** | 4:30 PM: *Sand Art with Michael Hritz (ages 7 and up)*
- **Tuesday, March 14** | 2-3:30 PM: *Maker Faire: Crafts, coloring and Legos*
- **Wednesday, March 15** | 2-3 PM: *Tween and Teen Crafts - Stress balls*
- **Thursday, March 16** | *Truck Petting Zoo (no animals here, just trucks)*
- **Friday, March 17** | 2:30 PM: *Movie - Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile*

Events are while supplies lasts

VITA Tax Assistance will start Saturday, January 28:

- Offered every Saturday in the Library Meeting Room
- Start Date: Saturday - January 28, 2023
- End Date: Saturday - April 15, 2023
- Customer hours: 11:00am - 3:00pm

City Council Meetings

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

Council will meet:

- March 9, 23
- April 13, 27

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, April 7 (Good Friday)

 Share on Facebook

 Share on Twitter

 Share via Email