

COMMUNITY CONNECTION NEWSLETTER



April 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

It's budget planning time again, and this month I am proud to recognize our Finance Department for the great work they do in putting our budget together each year, and congratulate them for their recent awards and honors.

Earlier this month the Finance Department, under the leadership of Chief Financial Officer Jeff Wood, received the Distinguished Budget Award for FY 2023, an honor they have earned for five years in a row now. To receive the budget award, the City had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as a

policy document, financial plan, operations guide, and communications device. In addition, the department was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for FY2021, which they have received for the last 13 years.

Last month, the Finance Department kicked off planning for the FY2023-24 budget. The City will spend the next six months formulating the budget. Each department will create a budget the fiscal year beginning in October 2023, and submit it to the Finance Department. Each Department head will then sit down with the Finance Department and City Management to review any proposed additions or changes to their budget before Finance prepares the proposed budget for the entire City. As City Manager, it is then my job to review the entire budget before it is submitted to City Council.

After City Council has a chance to review the budget, they will hold budget workshops and introduce the ordinance on the budget and tax rate, which includes several public hearings. The workshops and hearings are typically in August, so be sure to look out for public notices on our website and in the local newspaper. This will be your opportunity to review the proposed budget document and comment during the public hearing process. The budget is then presented to Council in September for adoption, and the tax rate is set for the coming fiscal year. If approved, the FY2023-24 Budget will then go into effect on October 1, 2023. All of our budgets are available for residents to review and are located on our website at [Budget | Taylor, TX - Official Website \(taylor-tx.gov\)](https://www.taylor-tx.gov/Budget).

I look forward to another successful budget planning process this year, and thank the Finance Department for the great work they do to keep us on track.

Sincerely,

Brian LaBorde

City Manager



Librarian Lends a Helping Hand

On Saturday, February 25, Taylor Public Library Director volunteered to participate in a Library Rescue program at the Teinert Memorial Library in Bartlett. As part of the program, Karen helped lead in the

"weeding" of their large print section and the young adult/juvenile fiction.

There were other librarians and graduate students from the I-School at the University of Texas volunteering. About 30 boxes of books were packed up during the clearing efforts. Tools and guidelines were also shared with the Teinert Library director.

The Library Rescue Program is funded by a grant from the Texas State Library and other support from the Tocker Foundation. Partners Library Action is a statewide

membership organization for public libraries. Karen serves on the PLAN Board as chair.

Notice of Early Voting

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted at the following location, during the following days and times of day:

You may vote during Early voting at the following location:

Main Polling Location - City Hall, 400 Porter Street

- April 24, 2023 - 8 AM to 6PM
- April 25, 2023 - 8 AM to 6 PM
- April 26, 2023 - 8 AM to 6 PM
- April 27, 2023 - 8 AM to 6 PM
- April 28, 2023 - 8 AM to 6 PM
- April 29, 2023 - 8 AM to 6 PM
- May 1, 2023 - 7 AM to 7 PM
- May 2, 2023 - 7 AM to 7 PM

Spanish-speaking workers will be available at each polling location.

NOTICIA DE VOTACIÓN TEMPRANA

La votación temprana en persona se realizará en los siguientes locales, según la fecha y hora indicada:

Usted podrá votar durante la votación temprana en cualquier de los siguientes locales:

Lugar Principal de Votación – Ayuntamiento (Alcaldía)

400 Porter St.

- 24 de abril de 2023 - 8 AM hasta 6 PM
- 25 de abril de 2023 - 8 AM hasta 6 PM
- 26 de abril de 2023 - 8 AM hasta 6 PM
- 27 de abril de 2023 - 8 AM hasta 6 PM
- 28 de abril de 2023 - 8 AM hasta 6 PM
- 29 de abril de 2023 - 8 AM hasta 6 PM
- 1 de mayo de 2023 - 7 AM hasta 7 PM
- 2 de mayo de 2023 - 7 AM hasta 7 PM

Trabajadores de habla hispana estarán disponibles en cada centro electoral.



Citywide Clean Up Set for April 29

The City's Public Works Department will hold its Spring Citywide Clean Up on Saturday, April 29, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Drop off is located at 1300 Welch Street and 1424 N. Main St. (enter the Public Works yard at Old Thorndale Road and exit on Main Street). Trucks and trailers accepted.

Residents will need to stay in their vehicle and Public Works crews will help unload items. Drop off of items is only open to Taylor residents. Residents will need to bring their driver's license and a City water bill.

The City will not accept:

- o Construction debris/concrete
- o Rocks or dirt
- o Paints
- o Oils
- o Batteries
- o Shingles
- o Tires over 16 inches (tires only)
- o Household chemicals
- o Freon appliances

Brush

Brush needs to be manageable, five-foot sections, able to be picked up by hand. Any unmanageable brush will be turned away.

For questions, please contact the Public Works Department at 512-352-5818.

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!



March Sales Tax Numbers

The City of Taylor has released the actual and cumulative sales tax numbers for the month of March and posted them to the City's website. The sales and use tax revenue reported for the City in March 2023 was \$1,900,982, an increase of more than \$1.3 million (277.8%) over the same time last year. The cumulative sales and use tax revenue through March 2023 is \$10,065,206, an increase of over \$6.9 million (221.6%) 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, April 18. For more information and to view the report, visit Finance section of the City's website at www.taylortx.gov.

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 and dance, food vendors, booths, kids' activities, antique tractor show 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.

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.

April

- **Saturday, April 8** | 10 AM | **Easter Egg Hunt** - The City of Taylor is partnering with Frontier Bank of Texas for an Easter Egg Hunt at Heritage Square Park. There will be tons of hidden eggs, complimentary Easter bags, games, face painting, music and even an appearance from the Easter Bunny!
- **Saturday, April 29** | 8AM - 3 PM | **Spring Citywide Clean Up** - The City's Public Works Department will hold its Spring Citywide Clean Up on Saturday, April 29, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Drop off is located at 1300 Welch Street and 1424 N. Main St. (enter the Public Works yard at Old Thorndale Road and exit on Main Street). Trucks and trailers accepted. Visit www.taylor.tx.gov/268/Citywide-Clean-Up for more information.

May

- **Saturday, May 6** | 10 AM - 4 PM | **Blackland Prairie Day** - This free event honors the rich cultural heritage of Taylor, where local goods and friendly people are in abundance. We'll have live music and dance, food vendors, booths, kids' activities, antique tractor show and more!

Peeps Diorama Contest



RULES:

- *ENTRIES ACCEPTED THRU APRIL 3
- *ONE WINNER WILL BE NOTIFIED BY PHONE
- *FAMILY ENTRIES ENCOURAGED
- *OPEN TO ALL AGES
- *FAMILY FRIENDLY
- *HAVE FUN AND BE CREATIVE
- *ALL DIORAMAS MUST INCLUDE PEEPS

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

April Calendar:

- o **Thursday, April 6**

Peeps diorama contest ends. Put together a "Peeps" inspired diorama and bring it to the Library before April 6. One winner will be chosen (Family friendly please)

- Preschool Storytime and craft on **Wednesdays** at **10:30 AM** | Free | 801 Vance St. Taylor TX
 - April 5
 - April 12
 - April 19
 - April 26
- **Thursday** evenings from **5:30 – 7:30 PM** is family board game night. We provide the board games, you just bring the family. All ages welcome. Free.
 - April 6
 - April 13
 - April 20
 - April 27
- **Saturdays in April and May** open interviews for teen volunteers. Fill out an application and turn it in between 11 AM-4 PM and get an immediate interview (14 and up).

VITA Tax Assistance:

- Offered every Saturday in the Library Meeting Room
- End Date: Saturday - April 15, 2023
- Customer hours: 11 AM - 3 PM

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:

- April 13, 27
- May 11, 25

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)
- Monday, May 29 (Memorial Day)

