

# COMMUNITY CONNECTION NEWSLETTER



## October 2023

### City of Taylor Donation Program

Residents can now make donations to the City of Taylor online. This convenient online payments page includes options to donate to:

- The Taylor Animal Shelter
- City of Taylor Public Library
- Parks and Recreation
- Police Department
- 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 hard to believe how quickly this year has flown by-- October is upon us, and the City is looking forward to a busy fall season, with several fun events planned throughout the month and in the months to come.

October also marks the beginning of the new fiscal year for the City of Taylor. The budget theme for FY2024 is "Putting the Pieces Together." We have completed our master plans and now we are moving forward with projects derived from those plans.

I first would like to congratulate our Finance Department for helping to raise our S&P Global Rating from AA- to AA. This rating is a big honor for the city, and it reflects our strong financial management and a robust economic outlook. The City's debt rating was last upgraded to AA- in December 2013. The upgrade in our debt rating will lead to substantial cost savings and enable us to issue debt at significantly lower interest rates. The City's consistent adherence to conservative fiscal practices has significantly contributed to this noteworthy achievement.

The FY2024 budget was crafted to address the escalating demand for services driven by rapid growth and development within our city. Notably, it encompasses increased funding for public safety personnel and additional staffing to streamline the day-to-day operations of our expanding City.

This year's budget also kicks off several exciting new Parks projects, including a new playground at Bull Branch Park, the resurfacing of the Memorial Field track, a new pickleball court, and the reconstruction of the Doris Roznovak Aquatic Center. We are proud of our city's green spaces and recreational activities and we are looking forward to expanding those important amenities for our residents.

In addition, we are pleased to include many needed improvements to our infrastructure in the upcoming budget. They include the reconstruction of existing sidewalks and overlays on Second Street, Fourth Street, and Mallard Street and the

replacement of several school zone lights, speed reader signs, and signage. This project is already underway, and you can visit our website at <https://bit.ly/TaylorOnTheMove> for more information and project updates. We will also be making drainage improvements to the Donna Channel, Mustang Creek, Travis, and Franklin.

Taylor residents can be assured that their tax dollars are being put to work in ways that will benefit them for many years to come. I would like to thank staff and our Finance Department for their diligent work over the last few months in putting together this year's budget, and our City Council for planning ahead and funding projects that will benefit generations to come. We look forward to putting the pieces together!

Sincerely,

**Brian LaBorde**

*City Manager*

## FY 2023-24 Budget Approved

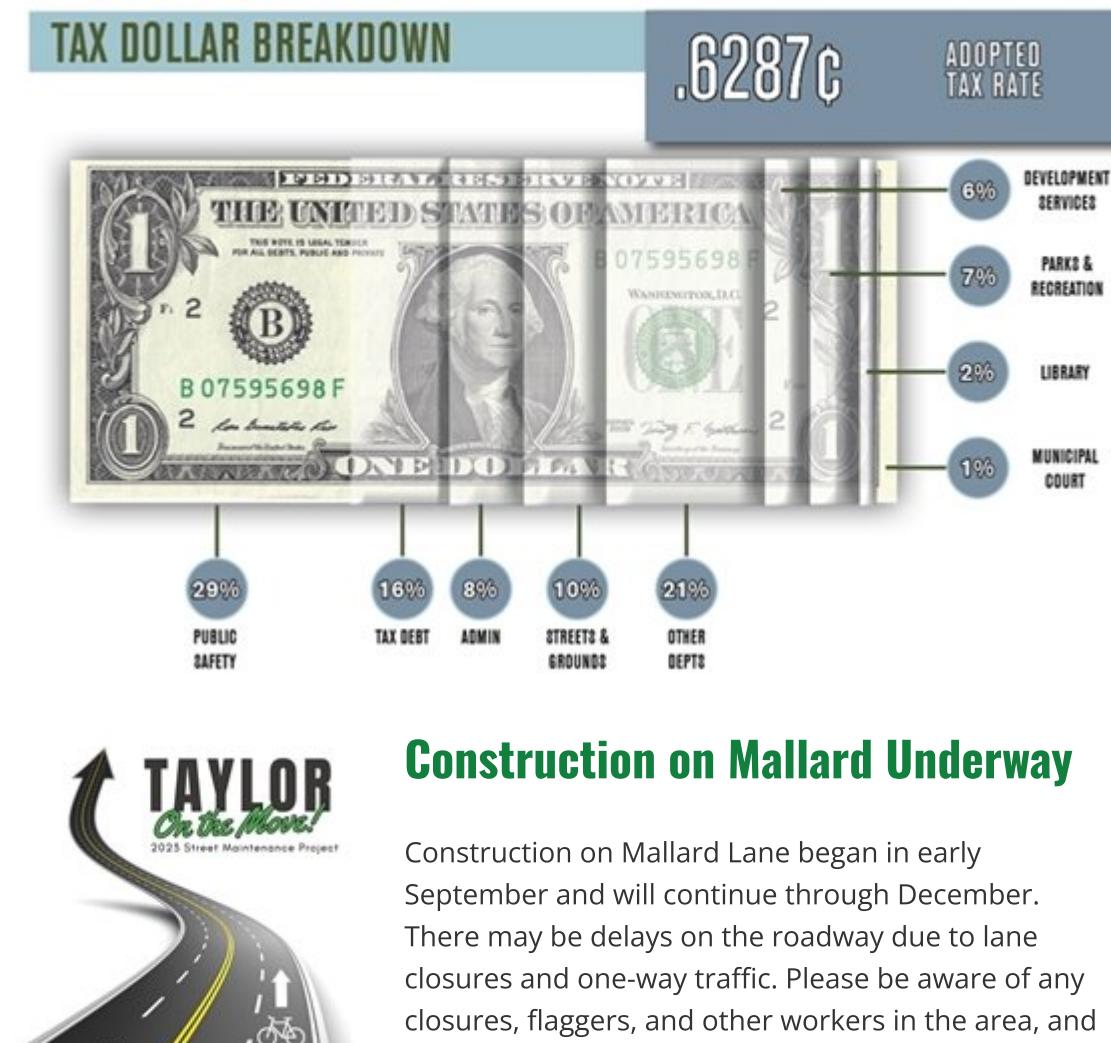
The City of Taylor adopted the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 budget at the August 24 City Council meeting.

Highlights include:

- Increases the Over 65 and Disabled Persons Exemption by \$10,000 to \$50,000 per household
- Includes a 3% COLA for all employees
- Includes almost \$4.5M in cash-funded equipment and facility upgrades
- Increases funding for programs that provide assistance to senior citizens, winter sheltering and community involvement programs
- Includes the cost of debt issued during FY 2023 that funds improvements to drainage and the construction of a new municipal complex including a justice center

The FY 2023-24 budget allocates \$58.7M to Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) which includes in part overlays on Second Street, Fourth Street and Mallard; Storm Water Master Plan; valve inventory and exercising program; new Bull Branch playground; and Memorial Field track resurface.

To view the budget, visit [Budget | Taylor, TX - Official Website \(taylortx.gov\)](https://www.taylortx.gov/budget).



Reconstruction of Mallard Lane is part of the 2023 Street Maintenance Project, which also includes reconstruction on Fourth and Second Streets. To read more about the project and for updates, visit <https://bit.ly/TaylorOnTheMove>.



*Construction is underway currently on Mallard Lane. Reconstruction of Mallard Lane, along with Fourth and Second Streets, are part of the 2023 Street Maintenance Project. To read more about the project, visit <https://bit.ly/TaylorOnTheMove>.*



## September Sales Tax Numbers

The City of Taylor has released the actual and cumulative sales tax numbers for the month of September and posted them to the City's website. The sales and use tax revenue reported for the City in September 2023 was \$2,749,238, an increase of more

than \$1.8 million (216.8%) over the same time last year. The cumulative sales and use

tax revenue through September 2023 is \$23,886,505, an increase of over \$16.5 million (226%) over the same period in 2021-22. 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 comparing 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. Additionally, the increase in sales tax revenue helped the City fund limb and debris cleanup efforts due to Winter Storm Mara.

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.

For more information about how tax dollars benefit Taylor residents, visit the Finance section of the City's website at [www.taylortx.gov](http://www.taylortx.gov).



# Congratulations 2023 Honor Guard Graduates

We would like to congratulate all of the 2023 Honor Guard Academy graduates!

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.](#)

## Join Us for the 10th Annual Main Street Car Show October 28

Join us in Historic Downtown Taylor for the biggest car show in Central Texas! This year will be our 10th 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

Registration is now open for 2023 Main Street Car Show participants. The Car Show will be held on Saturday, October 28, 2023. 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 \$17.00 plus \$2.50 charged by Eventbrite for a total cost of \$19.50 per vehicle through Eventbrite or \$20 for mail in (cash/check) for early registration and \$25.00 for registration on the day of the show.

[Click here for more information about registration.](#)

### Vendor Registration

We are now accepting vendors for the upcoming Main Street Car Show on Saturday, October 28, 2023 from 10 AM to 4 PM. A link to the online application is below; please

return your completed application and fee at your earliest convenience to be included in this year's event.

- [2023 MSCS Vendor Application](#)

The deadline for vendor applications is October 21, 2023. 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

If you have questions, please contact Special Events Coordinator Ruby Fisher at 512-309-6185 or by email at [ruby.fisher@taylortx.gov](mailto:ruby.fisher@taylortx.gov).



The image is a promotional flyer for the Taylor Fire Department's Open House. The top half features the City of Taylor Fire Department logo with the text "CITY OF TAYLOR", "PROUDLY SERVING", "FIRE DEPARTMENT", and "SINCE 1886". To the right, the text "Taylor Fire Department" and "OPEN HOUSE" is displayed in large, bold letters. Below this, the event details are listed: "Saturday, Oct. 21, 2023", "10 AM to 2 PM", and "Station 1, 200 Washburn". A cartoon dog named "SPARKY" is shown wearing a firefighter's helmet. The bottom half of the flyer contains a photograph of a modern fire station with two fire trucks parked in front. To the left of the photo, the text "FREE EVENT" is at the top, followed by "Join us for:" and a list of activities: "Food", "Stop, drop n' roll", "Sparky", "Fire Apparatus", "Demos of emergency access program, fire extinguishers & smoke alarms". At the bottom, the contact number "Contact 512-352-6992 for more information" is provided.

## 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 3 | 6-9 PM | National Night Out** - Join the Taylor Police Department for this year's National Night out. Block party registration is now open. To register or for more information visit [www.taylortx.gov/police](http://www.taylortx.gov/police).
- **Saturday, October 14 | 8-11 AM | Good Life Taylor, TX 5K** - Grab your running shoes and head out to Bull Branch Park for the annual Good Life Taylor, TX 5K. Enjoy a quiet, quaint but quick run. Visit [www.goodlifetaylor.com](http://www.goodlifetaylor.com) for registration link and details.
- **Saturday, October 21 | 9-10:30 AM | Animal Shelter Grand Opening** - Come celebrate the newly constructed Taylor Animal Shelter! Learn more about ways to help the shelter, how to become a volunteer and get a tour of the new facility.
- **Saturday, October 21 | 10 AM - 2 PM | Taylor Fire Department Open House** - Join the Fire Department at Station 1, 200 Washburn, for food, demonstrations and a visit from Sparky!
- **Saturday, October 28 | 10 AM - 4 PM | Main Street Car Show** - Join us in Historic Downtown Taylor for the biggest car show in Central Texas! We will be celebrating 10th Annual Taylor Main Street Car Show! 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.
- **Tuesday, 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.

## Taylor Public Library

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: noon - 6 PM  
Saturday: 11 AM - 4 PM  
Sunday: closed



### September Library Schedule:

- **Tuesday, October 3** | 6 PM | ***Meditation with Mr. Jim*** (teens and adults)
- **Wednesday, October 4** | 10:30 AM | ***Storytime*** - Fire Prevention (preschool)
- **Thursday, October 5** | 6 PM | ***Navigating Applications*** - A workshop for anyone needing help with online job applications. A Job Interview Workshop will also be held on October 19 at 6 PM. (open to all job seekers)
- **Saturday, October 7** | 1-3 PM | ***Puzzle Swap*** (open to everyone)
- **Wednesday, October 11** | 10:30 AM | ***Storytime*** - Bats (preschool)
- **Thursday, October 12** | 9:30 AM | ***Chair Yoga*** (adults)
- **Thursday, October 12** | 6-8 PM | ***Movie Showing*** - Hotel Transylvania (open to everyone)
- **Saturday, October 14** | 10 AM - noon | ***2023 Annular Solar Eclipse*** (open to everyone)
- **Tuesday, October 17** | 6 PM | ***Meditation with Mr. Jim*** (teens and adults)
- **Wednesday, October 18** | 10:30 AM | ***Storytime*** - Halloween (preschool)
- **Thursday, October 19** | 6 PM | ***Job Interview Workshop*** - This is the second part to the Navigating Applications. (open to all job seekers)

- **Saturday, October 21** | 1:30-3:30 PM | **Sewing Saturday** (ages 10 and up)
- **Monday, October 30** | 10:30 AM | **Preschool Movie Showing** - Mickey Mouse Halloween Spooktacular (preschool)
- **Tuesday, October 31** | 6 PM | **Spooktacular Scare on the Square** at Heritage Square - Library will close at 2 PM.

**ADULT FITNESS**  
**Fall Schedule - \$5 Per Class**  
**Parks & Rec: 1412 Davis St.**

**MON**

9:00 AM Croquet (free)

6:00 PM Zumba

**TUE**

6:00 PM Drum Fit

6:30 PM 5K Training

**WED**

6:30 PM Yoga

**THU**

2:00 PM Tai Chi (free)

6:00 PM Pilates

**FRI**

6:30 PM 5K Training

**SAT**

11:00 AM Senior Fit

10:00 AM Drum Fit









[Click here for more information.](#)

## 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:

- October 12, 26
- November 9

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, November 10 (Veteran's Day)
- Thursday and Friday, November 23-24 (Thanksgiving)



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