

# COMMUNITY CONNECTION NEWSLETTER



## December 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](https://www.municipalonlinepayments.com/taylortx/easypay)

[<https://www.municipalonlinepayments.com/taylortx/easypay>]

## City Manager Message

As we approach the conclusion of this year, I hope everyone is enjoying a festive holiday season. I hope you all will join us for the annual Taylor Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting Ceremony on Saturday, Dec. 2, starting at 6 PM. This beloved Taylor tradition is not only an opportunity to celebrate together but also a chance for our community to come together, show support for local groups, and kick off the holiday season.

In the spirit of fostering connections and unity, we recently had the pleasure of hosting a delegation from the South Korean district of Geumcheon-gu. In early November, the delegation came to Taylor to learn more about our city and our residents and how we are the same and different from their own area of South Korea. Activities included a presentation and tour of the Main Street Elementary Campus, lunch at Louie Mueller Barbecue, a visit to Jeff's Resurrections, and a comprehensive tour and history lesson about Downtown Taylor. In

addition, the delegation met briefly with the Taylor Economic Development Corporation, and participated in tours of the Taylor Police Department and Taylor Fire Department.

The highlight of the day was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by Mayor Brandt Rydell and Geumcheon-gu Mayor Sung-hun Ryu, officially establishing a sister city relationship between Taylor and Geumcheon-gu. To commemorate this special occasion, a proclamation was presented to the delegation, declaring November 9, 2023, as Geumcheon-gu Day in the City of Taylor.

I extend my sincere gratitude to Mayor Sung-hun Ryu and the entire delegation for their visit. Special thanks are also due to Tim Crow and Taylor ISD, Jeff's Resurrections, Louie Mueller Barbecue, Taylor EDC, Taylor FD, and Taylor PD for their warm hospitality. I appreciate the dedication and hard work of our staff in organizing and facilitating this visit, including Communication's Director Stacey Osborne, Assistant PIO Kendra Maness, Deputy City Manager Jeff Jenkins, Parks and Recreation Director Tyler Bybee, and Main Street Manager Jan Harris.

Looking ahead, we anticipate a fruitful and enduring partnership between our two cities. Let us continue to embrace the spirit of togetherness and celebrate the connections that make our community strong.

Wishing you all a joyous holiday season!

Sincerely,

**Brian LaBorde**  
*City Manager*



*A delegation from sister city Geumcheon-gu visited Taylor on November 9.*



## Finance Department Receives GFOA Excellence Award

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the City of Taylor for its annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended Sept. 30, 2022. The report has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

This is the 15th consecutive year the Finance Department has achieved this award. Congratulations to our Finance team and we greatly appreciate all of the hard work they do for the City of Taylor!

## Wastewater Averaging Period Begins

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.

If you have any questions about the wastewater averaging, please contact the City's Utility Billing Department at 512-352-2066

	Service Dates		Billing Dates				Date New Rate Appears on Bill
	Start	End	Nov. Services	Dec. Services	Jan. Services	Feb. Services	
Zone 1	10/18/2023	2/18/2024	12/5/2023	1/5/2024	2/5/2024	3/5/2024	4/5/2024
Zone 2	10/27/2023	2/27/2024	12/12/2023	1/12/2024	2/12/2024	3/12/2024	4/12/2024
Zone 3	11/3/2023	3/3/2024	12/19/2023	1/19/2024	2/19/2024	3/19/2024	4/19/2024
Zone 4	11/10/2023	3/10/2024	12/26/2023	1/26/2024	2/26/2024	3/26/2024	4/26/2024

Wastewater averaging dates for 2023-2024

## City Accepting LEAD Taylor 2024 Applications

The City of Taylor is looking for citizens who want to learn more about their city for the 2024 LEAD Taylor Program. The program is a community-

focused, collaborative program that provides participants an in-depth look at government operations, community planning and awareness, as well the opportunity to learn about Taylor ISD, economic development, civic organizations and much more. Classes are every third Thursday of the month from noon-5 PM starting in January until June.



For more information, visit [www.taylortx.gov/838/LEAD-Taylor](http://www.taylortx.gov/838/LEAD-Taylor).

Apply online here: <https://forms.gle/ichwsMJGxxFtyAQeA>

[\[https://forms.gle/ichwsMJGxxFtyAQeA\]](https://forms.gle/ichwsMJGxxFtyAQeA)

Questions? Contact the Communications Office at [pio@taylortx.gov](mailto:pio@taylortx.gov).



## A Message from the Taylor FD

Merry Christmas! Your Taylor Fire Department wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and want to remind you that a safety holiday is an enjoyable one, here are a few tips to consider.

### While decorating:

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections.
- Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.

### Holiday Entertaining:

- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.

More information may be found [by clicking here](#).

[\[http://https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/Winter\\_Holiday\\_Safety.pdf\]](http://https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/Winter_Holiday_Safety.pdf)

### Traveling:

- Prepare your car for winter and keep an emergency kit with you.
- Get a good night's sleep before departing and avoid drowsy driving.
- Leave early, planning for heavy traffic.

More information may be found [by clicking here](#)

[\[http://https://www.nsc.org/community-safety/safety-topics/seasonal-safety/winter-safety/holiday\]](http://https://www.nsc.org/community-safety/safety-topics/seasonal-safety/winter-safety/holiday).



## 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.

### December

#### **Saturday, December 2 | 6 PM | Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting Ceremony**

Celebrate the season with the City of Taylor! The City's Main Street Program will host a lighted Christmas Parade in downtown Taylor. The parade will begin at 6 p.m. on Main Street, from 12th Street to 3rd Street and end on west 3rd Street to Vance Street.

Following the parade, the City of Taylor Parks and Recreation Department will host a Tree Lighting Ceremony in Heritage Square. Join us as we officially light the Christmas tree for the season! There will also be live music, carols, crafts for the kids and a visit from Santa!

## Taylor Public Library

The [Taylor Public Library](http://www.ci.taylor.tx.us/25/Library) [<http://www.ci.taylor.tx.us/25/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

### **December Library Schedule:**







## 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:

- December 7, December 14
- January 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:

- Monday, December 25, and Tuesday, December 26 (Christmas)
- Monday, January 1 (New Year's Day)

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