

COMMUNITY CONNECTION NEWSLETTER



May 2024

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 are used by the City only for the category selected.

[Click Here to Make a Donation](#)

City Manager Message

As we head into May, the City of Taylor Main Street Program and Parks Department are gearing up for summer with exciting events and activities for the whole community.

The Main Street Program will host two exciting events in May: Taylor Fest on May 4, Shred Fest on May 11. Taylor Fest (formerly known as Blackland Prairie Days) will be in Heritage Square and will feature an eclectic mix of live music, cultural performances, and vendors. It will be a vibrant celebration of history culture in the



Taylor community. Volunteers are needed for Taylor Fest--if you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to Special Events Coordinator Ruby Fisher at ruby.fisher@taylor.tx.gov or sign up here: <https://forms.gle/xZAe7vk9cL9CGAbk8>.

On May 11 the City will present a new event, Shred Fest at Pierce Park. Featuring BMX and skateboarding competitions, live art installations, live DJs, and vendors, it will be an epic Saturday to remember in Taylor! To learn more, please visit the Shred Fest Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/events/s/-taylor-shred-fest-959531079097505/>

The Parks Department will kick off the summer season by opening the Doris Roznovak Aquatic Center on Saturday, May 27. The Robinson Park Splash Pad is currently open for everyone to enjoy, and while there is still ongoing construction at the Heritage Square Splash Pad, we anticipate the splash pad to reopen at the beginning of June. Be sure to visit the Parks website at [Parks & Recreation | Taylor, TX - Official Website \(taylor.tx.gov\)](https://www.taylor.tx.gov/parks) or follow their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/taylor.tx.parks for news and updates.

We are also looking forward to celebrating the Taylor High School Class of 2024 when they graduate at the end of May. We wish all of our graduates the best of luck in their future endeavors, and thank Superintendent Garcia-Edwardsen and Taylor ISD for their support and partnership throughout the year.

Please be safe as we finish up the school year and ease into the summer season. We look forward to seeing you out and about in the community!

Sincerely,

Brian LaBorde
City Manager



Elections Set for May 4

ELECTION DAY VOTING INFORMATION

May 4, 2024

7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Locations:

- Taylor Public Library, 801 Vance St., Taylor, Texas
- Williamson County Expo Center, 5350 Bill Pickett Trail, Taylor, Texas

Residents can vote at either location, regardless of which district they reside in.

VOTACIÓN EN EL DÍA DE LAS ELECCIONES

4 de mayo de 2024

7:00 a. m. a 7:00 p. m.

- Biblioteca Pública de Taylor, 801 Vance St., Taylor, Texas
- Centro de Exposiciones del Condado de Williamson, 5350 Bill Pickett Trail, Taylor, Texas

Please visit the city's website for more information and updates, [City Elections | Taylor, TX - Official Website](#)

May is Building Safety Month



The month of May marks Building Safety Month by the International Code Council. Building Safety Month is an international campaign celebrated in May to raise awareness about building safety. This year's theme is "Mission Possible."

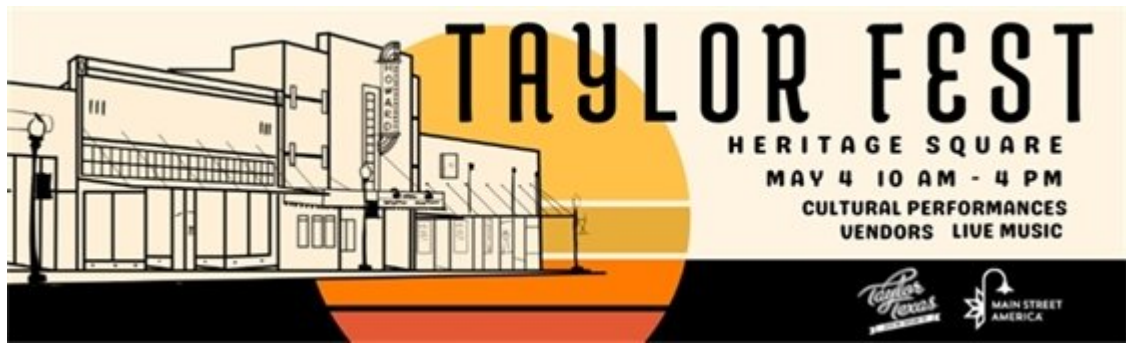
For more than 43 years, Building Safety Month has reinforced the need for the adoption of modern, regularly updated building codes, and helps individuals, families and businesses understand what it takes to create safe and sustainable structures.

To help raise awareness during Building Safety Month, the City of Taylor's Permitting Department will be holding two public events. On Friday, May 10, and Monday, May 20, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at City Hall, residents and business owners will have the opportunity to walk in, meet with our team and ask questions. We hope to answer any building questions covering a variety of topics such as permitting, plan review, and inspections. For questions, please contact the Permitting Department at 512-309-6183.

Leak Detection Project Set for Beginning of May

Acoustic Leak Detection, LLC, will be conducting a city-wide Leak Detection Survey within the city limits at the beginning of May. The employees of Acoustic Leak Detection will be wearing construction vests and may be seen walking in right-of-way. They also may be seen throughout town driving ATVs or pickup trucks while conducting the survey and setting up equipment to listen to water lines and valves as they try to locate leaks. They will not be on private property without first contacting property owners.

For questions, please contact Utility Superintendent Sam Thomas at 512-352-6257.



Taylor Fest Set For First Saturday in May

The City of Taylor's Main Street Program invites residents to come to Heritage Square the first Saturday in May for Taylor Fest (formerly known as Blackland Prairie Day). The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Heritage Square on Saturday, May 4, and will feature a vibrant celebration of culture that recognizes the diversity of Taylor.

The festival, whose name was changed earlier this year on the recommendation of the Main Street Advisory Board, is traditionally held on the first Saturday in May and brings together people from all walks of life to honor and appreciate the rich tapestry of cultures that make Taylor unique. The event will feature live music, an array of cultural live dance performances, food vendors, and arts and crafts booths. Some performances include the McCallum High School Ballet Folklorico team, the Texas Dragon Dance Team, the Hot Pickin 57s, the Bramaya Dance and Drum Ensemble, and more.

"Taylor Fest will be more than just a celebration; it is a testament to the vibrant mosaic of cultures that enrich our town. Join us in embracing diversity, supporting our local businesses, and celebrating what makes Taylor unique," said Ruby Fisher, Main Street Program Special Events Coordinator.

The Main Street Program is also looking for sponsors, vendors, and volunteers to help work the event. If anyone is interested in sponsoring Taylor Fest or participating, please contact Fisher at ruby.fisher@taylortx.gov or by telephone at 512-309-6185. For more information, visit the City's website at www.taylortx.gov.



Inaugural Taylor Shred Fest Highlights Skate and BMX Culture

Pierce Park in historic downtown Taylor is set to host an all-ages skate park competition on Saturday, May 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The park, located at 326 Porter St, will be the site of an event that promises to be an electrifying showcase of skill, creativity, and

community spirit and will feature local artists, food, and music from DJ FreaQ and DJ Sum of M.

Competitors at Shred Fest will show off their ollies, best tricks, and more and win great prizes from Sunday Bikes, No-Comply Skateshop, and Empire Bikes. There is no fee to enter the competition and all ages are welcome. To enter the competition, visit www.taylortx.gov. An afterparty at Black Sparrow Music Parlor, 113 W. Second St., starts at 5 p.m. with live music from The Revelry, Generation Exit, Dylan Disaster, and Oogwei. The party is also open to all ages.

Local shops and artists are getting in on the fun too. The 74 Man Store donated blank skate decks to be painted by local artists Moses Buzan, Dennis Levitin, Judy Blundell, Adam Davenport, and Miguel Verastique. These one-of-a-kind pieces will be raffled off at the afterparty. To enter the raffle, visit downtown businesses throughout the day as every purchase earns a raffle ticket.

"We're stoked to celebrate the excitement and energy of skateboarding and BMX culture in our small town," said Ruby Fisher, Special Events Coordinator for the Main Street Program.

The City extends special thanks to local businesses who are sponsoring this event: Alchemy, Taylor Bike Company, Curio Mrvosa Books, Empire BMX, Hayley's Grains, Karch Music, Lone Star Circle of Care, the McCrory Timmerman, Neighborhood Bottle Shoppe, No-Comply Skateshop, Old Taylor High, Sunday Bikes, Third Coast Auto Group, and Thirsty Skate Shop.

For more information, visit the City's website at www.taylortx.gov or contact Fisher at ruby.fisher@taylortx.gov or by phone at 512-309-6185.

May is National Historic Preservation Month

The month of May is observed as National Historic Preservation Month. This year's theme is "People Saving Places" to help shine the spotlight on everyone doing the work of saving places.

The City of Taylor recently established a Historic Preservation Commission. Members of the commission include Frances Sorrow, Kay Peebles, Lea Bowman, Shiloh Brown, and Erwin Stauffer. Main Street Manager and Historic Preservation Officer Jan Harris serves as the City liaison for the commission.

Historic preservation conserves resources, reduces waste, and saves money by repairing and reusing existing buildings instead of tearing them down and building



new ones. Reusing a historic structure versus tearing it down and building with new materials helps to greatly reduce the carbon footprint of a building.

The rehabilitation of historic buildings is important to Texas: Private property owners invest almost \$741 million annually in the rehabilitation of designated historic buildings, more than 7% of all building rehabilitation activity. Public entities add at least \$31 million for a total annual historic rehabilitation investment in Texas of approximately \$772 million.

Incentives for historic properties attract investment: Every dollar from federal and state incentive programs triggers \$4 to \$5 of private-sector investment. Since its inception in 1978, the Federal Historic Tax Credit has spurred about \$1.78 billion in private-sector rehabilitation in Texas, generating more than 35,000 in-state jobs and more than \$2.4 billion in state GDP. As the new Texas Historic Preservation Tax Credit takes effect in 2015, the state can expect a strong increase in this investment.

History museums bring economic vitality to communities: Texas Historical Museums (there are more than 700) spend over \$93 million annually, not including capital expenditures. Even history museums in the smallest communities across the state attract thousands of visitors annually.

Revitalization of Texas Main Streets makes good business sense: Historic downtowns sustain communities and are the focus of the Texas Main Street Program, with 89 cities currently participating. Since the program's inception in 1981, participating Main Streets have produced an average of \$310 million annually in state GDP. Cumulative reinvestment in Main Street areas has totaled over \$5.2 billion since 1981.



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.

May

- **Saturday, May 4 | 10 AM | Taylor Fest** - Join us for Taylor Fest, a vibrant celebration of culture in our community! Through music, dance, food, and art, we showcase the beauty of the rich tapestry of cultures while raising funds to enhance our Main Street district and uplift local small businesses.
- **Friday, May 10 & Monday, May 20 | 11 AM - 1 PM | Building Safety Month** - The Development Services Department will be holding two public events for Building Safety Month at Taylor City Hall. Residents and business owners will have the opportunity to walk in, meet with our team and ask questions. We hope to answer any building questions covering a variety of topics such as permitting, plan review, and inspections.
- **Saturday, May 11 | 10 AM - 2 PM | Taylor Shred Fest** - Everyone is cordially invited to the first-ever Shred Fest at the Pierce Park Skate Park. It will be an

exciting day filled with skate competitions for all ages, vendors, food, and music! Visit linktr.ee/taylorshredfest for more information.

- **Thursday, May 16 | 7-10 PM | Music on Main featuring Giddy Up Go and Lonesome Dave Fisher** - Get ready to rock and roll! Join us for a FREE foot-stompin', hand-clappin' night of rockabilly tunes presented by Bogle Family Vineyards and the Taylor Public Arts Board in Heritage Square.
- **Saturday, May 25** | The Doris Roznovak Aquatic Center opens for the summer!
- **Monday, May 27 | 10 AM | Memorial Day Salute** - Join the American Legion, Graham D Luhn Post 39 for a Memorial Day Salute as the Central Texas Base United States Submarine Veterans hold a "Tolling of the Boats" or calling the roll of shipmates in addition to honoring all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our country. The event will be held at the Murphy Park Pavilion.

June

- **Saturday, June 8 | 8:30-10 PM | Movie in the Park featuring Migration** - Join the Parks and Recreation Department and kick off the summer with a Movie in the Park at Heritage Square! The featured movie will be Migration and the movie kicks off at dusk, around 8:30. There will be free popcorn available as well as food for sale from Cyns Roasted Corns.

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

April 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:

- May 9, 23;
- May 14 at 5 PM (Special Called to Canvass Votes from May Election) at the Taylor Public Library
- June 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:

- Monday, May 27 (Memorial Day)
- Wednesday, June 19 (Juneteenth)



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