



# COMMUNITY CONNECTION

NOVEMBER 2024

VOL. 20 | ISSUE 11



# YOUR CITY COUNCIL







## MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, I wanted to take a moment to give thanks to our City staff and Council for all of their hard work throughout this year. Each member of our team has shown remarkable dedication and commitment to serving our community. Their efforts have not gone unnoticed, and it is important to acknowledge the countless hours they have invested in planning, organizing, and executing initiatives that have enhanced Taylor's quality of life.

There have certainly been many hurdles to overcome this year, and despite those, our City staff and Council have worked tirelessly to implement innovative solutions and continued to provide essential services.

So as we gather with friends and family to celebrate Thanksgiving, let's take a moment to reflect on the contributions of our staff and Council Members. This holiday season, I encourage everyone to join me in extending our gratitude to those who serve our community with passion and integrity. Together, let's celebrate their achievements and look forward to continuing our work in the year ahead.

Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

*Brian Laborde*



# CITY NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Sign Up for LEAD Taylor!

The City of Taylor is looking for citizens who want to learn more about their city for the 2025 LEAD Taylor Program. The program is a community-focused, collaborative program that provides participants an in-depth look at government operations and community planning, 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.

**Scan the QR for more info.**



## Wastewater Averaging 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.

	Service Dates		Billing Dates				Date New Rate Appears on Bill
	Start	End	Nov. Services	Dec. Services	Jan. Services	Feb. Services	
Zone 1	10/12/2024	2/09/2025	12/05/2024	1/05/2025	2/05/2025	3/05/2025	4/05/2025
Zone 2	10/18/2024	2/15/2025	12/12/2024	1/12/2025	2/12/2025	3/12/2025	4/12/2025
Zone 3	10/26/2024	2/23/2025	12/19/2024	1/19/2025	2/19/2025	3/19/2025	4/19/2025
Zone 4	11/02/2024	3/02/2025	12/26/2024	1/26/2025	2/26/2025	3/26/2025	4/26/2025

## CLOSURES

**11** All City of Taylor Offices will be closed November 11 for Veterans Day

**28** All City of Taylor Offices will be closed November 28 & 29 for Thanksgiving

## TRASH PICKUP

**Waste Services will be closed on November 28. If you are scheduled for pickup on Thursday, trash services will be delayed by one day.**



# INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

As part of our ongoing commitment to improving the quality of life in Taylor, we're excited to provide an update on key infrastructure projects around the city. With a focus on enhancing roadways, expanding public facilities, and upgrading essential utilities, these projects are designed to meet the needs of our growing community and provide safe, efficient, and reliable services for all residents.

From resurfacing roads and upgrading water mains to improving park facilities and enhancing traffic flow, our team is hard at work ensuring Taylor's infrastructure is equipped to support the future.

## Improvements Complete on Fourth Street

The City of Taylor is pleased to share the completion of improvements to Fourth Street as part of the Taylor on the Move! Street Maintenance Project. Drivers will notice a significantly smoother ride on the newly resurfaced roadway, which now boasts fresh, all-new striping that enhances visibility and safety for all travelers. This project involved full-depth reconstruction of parts of Fourth Street, reinforcing the road's foundation and ensuring greater durability and longevity.

In addition to the smoother surface, the updates include the addition of parallel parking lanes along both the north and south sides of the street, providing more convenient parking options for residents, visitors, and local businesses.

The City appreciates the patience, understanding, and cooperation of residents and commuters during the construction phase. These updates to Fourth Street reflect the City's ongoing commitment to enhancing infrastructure and improving overall quality of life for the Taylor community.





# DRAINAGE PROJECT UPDATES

In 2019, the City of Taylor enacted higher standards for their flood control ordinance, enhanced drainage criteria in their subdivision ordinance, and adopted a comprehensive Drainage Master Plan to form a framework for addressing flooding issues.

These drainage projects are designed to improve drainage issues and address flooding caused by stormwater and are primarily funded through grants.

## Donna Channel Drainage Project

This project involves drainage improvements to the existing Donna Channel, located within a utility easement between Davis Street and Donna Drive. The channel generally flows south, crossing Drake Lane, until its confluence with Bull Branch to the South. The goal of the improvements is to reduce flooding along streets in the vicinity of the project and private properties along the Donna Channel itself.

Project design for the Donna Channel has been completed and is awaiting approval from grant agencies before bidding and construction.



## Mustang Creek Drainage Project

The goal of this project is to mitigate erosion threatening the airport runway in the Mustang Creek watershed southwest of the Taylor Municipal Airport and provide approximately 20 acre-feet of overbank flood storage while ensuring no adverse impacts to downstream residents. Mustang Creek headwaters begin north of Hutto and flow southeast through Taylor, crossing State Highway (SH) 79 and eventually flowing to Brushy Creek.

The City Council awarded a contract to Ranger Excavating for \$870,000 during the October 24 Council Meeting. Construction is expected to begin before the end of 2024.



## Travis & Franklin Drainage and Flood Improvements

Travis and Franklin Streets form a loop road south of West Second Street that primarily serves residential homes and a few businesses. These streets routinely experience ponding due to inadequate roadside drainage ditches and impact some residential homes. The goal is to mitigate the unwanted stormwater impacts and improve drainage infrastructure in the area.

Project design for Travis & Franklin is 60% complete.





# COMING SOON ...

Exciting developments are on the horizon for the City of Taylor! From infrastructure projects to parks improvements, our vision is to make Taylor a thriving place for all. As we grow together, stay tuned for updates on these upcoming projects that promise to enhance the quality of life!

## Future Projects Identified

During an October 17 special called City Council meeting, the Council selected several projects for a 2025 bond issuance. They considered 19 possible projects for the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and staff proposed a \$20 million bond to fund the projects.

Due to cost restrictions, Council selected to prioritize the design work for the extension of Wesley Miller to Windy Ridge along with a mill and overlay of Wesley Miller, a match for construction and design with Williamson County for Corridor A2 which will span between FM 973 and State Highway 95, as well as maintenance on Davis Street.

They also prioritized \$750,000 toward a sidewalk to connect Main Street Commons to a crosswalk connecting to Walmart and HEB. Funding was also approved for Downtown Master Plan streetscape projects currently in development.

In addition, Council prioritized drainage improvements for Gabriel Street totaling \$101,000, North Drive for \$908,000, McLain Street for \$1.7 million, and Mariposa Lane for \$811,000.

### The funding breakdown includes:

- **\$5.8 million for streets**
- **\$950,000 for sidewalks and streetscape**
- **\$3 million for drainage projects**
- **\$275,000 for Parks projects**
- **\$6.2 million for facilities**
- **\$2 million for equipment**

Council prioritized the Parks Master Plan Update for \$275,000. They also prioritized renovations to Fire Station 2 for a total of \$2.6 million and purchase and renovation of a new Public Works building for \$3.6 million. The facilities projects will be a total investment of \$6.2 million.

Lastly, they prioritized \$2 million for the purchase of a new fire ladder truck. The total proposed bond package is \$20 million which will add approximately seven cents to the tax rate in Fiscal Year 2026. Next up, City staff will prepare a bond package that will be presented to Council in the spring before issuance.





# WINTER WEATHER TIPS

## Preparing for Winter Weather

Here are some tips from Ready.Gov to prepare for any winter weather ahead:

- Prepare your home to keep out the cold with insulation, caulking, and weather stripping.
- Learn how to keep pipes from freezing.
- Install and test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors with battery backups.
- Gather supplies in case you need to stay home for several days without power. Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication.
- Remember the needs of your pets.
- Have extra batteries for radios and flashlights.

## Stay Safe During Winter Weather

- Stay off the roads if at all possible. If trapped in your car, stay inside.
- Limit your time outside. If you need to go outside, wear layers of warm clothing. Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia.
- Reduce the risk of a heart attack by avoiding overexertion when shoveling snow and walking in the snow.

## Be Weather Ready

Be prepared for winter weather at home, work, and in your car. Create an emergency supply kit for your car that includes jumper cables, sand, a flashlight, warm clothes, blankets, bottled water, and non-perishable snacks. Keep a full tank of gas.



## KEY TERMS

### Winter Storm Warning

Issued when hazardous winter weather in the form of heavy snow, heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet is imminent or occurring. Usually issued 12 to 24 hours before the event is expected to begin.

### Winter Storm Watch

Alerts the public to the possibility of a blizzard, heavy snow, heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet. Usually issued 12 to 48 hours before event is expected to begin.

### Winter Weather Advisory

Issued for accumulations of snow, freezing rain, freezing drizzle, and sleet which will cause significant inconveniences and, if caution is not exercised, could lead to life-threatening situations.

*Source: Ready.gov*



# HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

*From the Taylor Fire Department*



**As frying a turkey for Thanksgiving dinner becomes increasingly more popular, the Fire Department asks that you keep these safety tips in mind:**

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions to avoid overfilling. Oil can ignite when it contacts the burner or open flames.
- Keep fryers outdoors, a safe distance away from structures, off decks, and out of garages.
- Make sure the turkey is thawed and dry before cooking. Ice or water that mixes into the hot oil can cause flare-ups.
- Watch the weather. Never operate a fryer outdoors in the rain or snow.
- Place the fryer on a level surface and avoid moving it once it's in use.
- Leave 2 feet between the tank and the burner when using a propane-powered fryer.
- Never leave fryers unattended.
- Purchase a fryer with temperature controls and watch the oil temperature carefully. Cooking oil that is heated beyond its smoke point can catch fire. If you notice the oil is smoking, turn the fryer off.
- Turn off the burner before lowering the turkey into the oil. Once the turkey is submerged, turn the burner on.
- Wear goggles to shield your eyes, use oven mitts to protect your hands and arms, and keep an "ABC" or grease-rated fire extinguisher close by. Do not use water or a garden hose on a fire related to turkey fryers.
- Avoid water-based marinades.
- Always keep children and pets away from the fryer.
- Once finished, carefully remove the pot from the burner, place it on a level surface, and cover with a metal lid to let the oil cool overnight before properly disposing.

**If you plan to travel during the holidays, ensure your vehicle is maintained. If staying in hotels, know your surroundings especially the routes to the exits and stairwells.**

**The holidays are just around the corner and your Taylor Fire Department wishes everyone happy holidays.**



# DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN

## About the Project

The City of Taylor is working on updating the 2015 Downtown Plan, a policy document used by city leaders, developers, business owners, and citizens that establishes a vision for the future of downtown. This update will build on what has been outlined in the 2015 Downtown Plan to create a robust, implementable plan that meets the needs of the downtown as the city continues to grow.

The Taylor Downtown Plan Update process is an opportunity to shape the future vision of downtown. To build a successful new plan, we must understand the community's priorities and concerns through a robust and inclusive community engagement process.

## First Stakeholder Meeting Recap

The first public meeting for the Downtown Master Plan Update was held July 10. Over 100 members of the community attended this meeting. Key takeaways from this meeting included supporting small local businesses, lower vacancy rates, increase walkability, multi-mobility, lowering the speed limit on Main Street and removing truck traffic, adding more trash cans, more access to greenspaces, and more community events.

**For more information about the Downtown Master Plan, visit:**  
**[www.taylor.tx.gov/1200/Downtown-Master-Plan](http://www.taylor.tx.gov/1200/Downtown-Master-Plan)**

## What is next for the project?

A second stakeholder meeting will be held on Monday, November 18, from 6-7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, 111 W. Rio Grande St.

During the meeting, items to be discussed include the downtown framework plan for new/enhanced parks and gathering spaces, streetscape improvements, alleyway connections, main street bridge strategies, and infill areas. There will also be an open house.





# WELLNESS AND RECREATION CENTER STUDY

## Facility Tours

Our steering committee, selected by the City Council, along with staff and our consultants toured a variety of recreation centers in the DFW area on October 23-24 to see what works, and what doesn't work, and identify things that they would like to see in Taylor and things that they do not want to see.

## Public Survey

The public survey will remain live until November 20. We have two surveys running simultaneously. The first is a scientifically valid survey with a random sampling of the community asked to participate to get a general idea of the community's thoughts and opinions. We are also providing a publicly accessible survey for everyone to participate in who are interested. The goal of this survey is to get the thoughts and opinions of those who care the most about the subject. These results will be presented at the next public meeting on November 20.

## Public Meeting Recap

The first public meeting about the Wellness and Recreation Center Feasibility Study was a huge success. We had over 65 people in attendance and received invaluable input that will be included in the final results of the study. At the event, participants learned about the scope of the study, who is involved, the timeline, and opportunities for public participation. They also made their voices heard during a collaborative exercise where they wrote answers to questions on sticky notes and prioritized programming and recreation spaces around the room. The next public meeting will be held at 6:30 PM on November 20th at the Library.



Take the  
Survey





# IN CASE YOU MISSED IT ...

## National Night Out | October 2



## Fire Department Open House | October 5





Thank you to everyone who attended any of  
our awesome events in October!

### **Pumpkin Decorating | October 17**



### **11th Annual Main Street Car Show | October 26**





# CITY MEETINGS



5

## **Zoning Board of Adjustment**

6:00 PM | CITY HALL | 400 PORTER ST

6

## **Historic Preservation Commission**

6:00 PM | CITY HALL | 400 PORTER ST

12

## **Planning & Zoning Commission**

6:00 PM | CITY HALL | 400 PORTER ST

14

## **City Council Meeting**

6:00 PM | CITY HALL | 400 PORTER ST

19

## **Moody Museum Advisory Board**

5:30 PM | MOODY MUSEUM | 114 W. 9TH ST..

20

## **Main Street Advisory Board**

5:00 PM | CITY HALL | 400 PORTER ST

20

## **Tax Increment Finance #1 Board**

5:00 PM | CITY HALL | 400 PORTER ST

20

## **Parks and Recreation Board**

6:00 PM | DICKEY-GIVENS COMMUNITY CENTER | 1015 E. MLK JR. BLVD.

27

## **Public Arts Advisory Board**

5:30 PM | CITY HALL | 400 PORTER ST

NOVEMBER





# COMMUNITY EVENTS

9

## Arbor Day Tree Planting

9:00 AM | FANNIE ROBINSON PARK | 1009 E. MLK BLVD.

9

## Music On Main

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM | HERITAGE SQUARE

10

## Salute to the Troops

2:00 PM | MOODY MUSEUM | 114 W. 9TH ST.T

Happy  
Thanksgiving





# PARKS EVENTS

M

## Zumba

MONDAYS | 6:00 PM | MEMORIAL FIELDHOUSE | MURPHY PARK

T

## Senior Fit

TUESDAYS | 10:30 AM | MEMORIAL FIELDHOUSE | MURPHY PARK

T

## Pilates

TUESDAYS | 6:00 PM | MEMORIAL FIELDHOUSE | MURPHY PARK

W

## Yoga

WEDNESDAYS | 6:30 PM | MEMORIAL FIELDHOUSE | MURPHY PARK

TH

## Drum Fit

THURSDAYS | 6:00 PM | MEMORIAL FIELDHOUSE | MURPHY PARK

TH

## Senior Fit

FRIDAYS | 11:00 AM | MEMORIAL FIELDHOUSE | MURPHY PARK

S

## Boot Camp

SATURDAYS | 9:00 AM | MEMORIAL FIELDHOUSE | REGISTER AT TAYLORTX.GOV

S

## Drum Fit

SATURDAYS | 10:00 AM | MEMORIAL FIELDHOUSE | MURPHY PARK

SU

## Adult Volleyball

AGES 16+

SUNDAYS | 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM | TAYLOR MIDDLE SCHOOL | REGISTER AT TAYLORTX.GOV

20

## Public Meeting

SECOND WELLNESS AND RECREATION  
CENTER FEASIBILITY STUDY PUBLIC  
MEETING

6:30 PM | TAYLOR LIBRARY

NOVEMBER



# LIBRARY EVENTS

TAYLOR PUBLIC LIBRARY

2

## Puzzle Swap

2:30 PM

2

## Puzzle Competition

3:00 PM

8

## Veteran Appreciation

12:00 PM - 6:00 PM

13

## Senior Social

2:00 PM

18

## Book Sale

11:00 AM

23

## Sewing Saturday

11:00 AM

27

## Senior Social

2:00 PM

## WEEKLY

M

## Baby Time

MONDAYS | 10:30AM

T

## Hooks and Needles

TUESDAYS | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

W

## Story Time

WEDNESDAYS | 10:30 AM

TH

## Chair Yoga

THURSDAYS | 9:30 AM

TH

## Chair Massage

THURSDAYS | 10:30 AM

## CLOSURES

9

The Library will be closed November 9 & 11 for Veterans Day

28

The Library will be closed November 28, 29, & 30 for Thanksgiving



# COUNCIL CONNECTION

## COUNCIL MEETING RECAP VIDEOS

The Council Connection video series provides a recap of what happened at each Council meeting. They are released within a week following each meeting.



### October 17 Meeting

DISCUSSION OF DEBT  
ISSUANCE, CAPITAL  
IMPROVEMENT PLAN  
UPDATE ....



### October 24 Meeting

DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN  
UPDATE, FIBER INTERNET  
SERVICES, UPDATE ON 2024  
STREET MAINTENANCE,  
BOARD APPOINTMENTS,  
DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS ...



**View all past meetings at [TaylorTX.gov/Videos](https://TaylorTX.gov/Videos)**



# STAY CONNECTED!

Would you like to stay in the know about all things City of Taylor? Sign up today!



## Emergency Notifications

SIGN UP FOR EMERGENCY ALERTS



## City Newsletter

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE THIS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



## City Web News

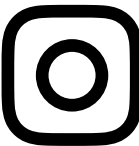
RECEIVE THE LATEST AS IT HAPPENS



## Meeting/Event Reminders

RECEIVE REMINDERS OF UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

# SOCIAL MEDIA



The City of Taylor can be found on these social platforms.



# CITY OF TAYLOR COUNCIL



Left to Right: Gerald Anderson (District 1), Shelli Cobb (District 2), Mayor Dwayne Ariola (At-Large), Mayor Pro Tem Kelly Cmerek (District 3), Robert Garcia (District 4)