



COMMUNITY CONNECTION

DECEMBER 2024

VOL. 20 | ISSUE 12

YOUR CITY COUNCIL





MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

As the year draws to a close, it's the perfect time to reflect on all we've accomplished together as a community in 2024.

The Parks and Recreation Department had a successful year, starting with a well-received Bike Rodeo in March and on April, we celebrated the installation of a new playground at Bull Branch Park with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. This summer, we embarked on an exciting journey by launching a Wellness and Recreation Center Feasibility Study, and we eagerly anticipate the study's results. Additionally, we are making great progress on plans to reconstruct the Doris Roznovak Aquatic Center, ensuring it will serve our community for years to come. Several facilities have gotten updates such as the Pickleball Courts and the track resurfacing at Memorial Field as well this year.

This year also saw the completion of reconstruction on Mallard, Fourth, and Second Streets as part of the Taylor On the Move! Street Maintenance Project. This project included significant improvements to our City streets that will help extend the life of the roads.

As we head into 2025, I am looking forward to building on this momentum and continuing to make Taylor a vibrant, welcoming place to live, work, and play. Here's to a bright and prosperous 2025!

Brian Laborde

CITY NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Make Your Voice Heard! Sign up for community surveys.



Do you have one minute a month to help make Taylor better? Join your friends and neighbors and make your voice heard on important local issues. Just take a minute to sign up at the link below.

The City of Taylor is working with FlashVote to engage the community and gather valuable input from residents to inform our decisions. We encourage residents to sign up here now: www.flashvote.com/taylortx or call 775-235-2240 to participate.

Free Chlorine Burn Set to Begin in December

The City of Taylor public water system will temporarily convert the disinfectant use in the distribution system from chloramine to free chlorine. The conversion will begin on December 3 and continue through January 6. During this period, residents in Taylor may experience taste or odor changes associated with this type of temporary disinfectant conversion.

Public water systems are required to properly disinfect their water and

maintain an adequate disinfectant residual in the distribution system. Chloramine, free chlorine combined with ammonia, is widely used as a disinfectant because it persists for long periods while also limiting the formation of disinfection by-product contaminants.

Prolonged use of chloramine coupled with other factors that can impact water quality, such as high temperatures or stagnation of water, may result in the growth and/or

CLOSURES

24

All City of Taylor Offices will be closed December 24 & 25 for Christmas.

1

All City of Taylor Offices will be closed January 1 for New Year's Day.

TRASH PICKUP

Waste Services will be closed on December 25 and January 1. If you are scheduled for pickup on those days, trash services will be delayed by one day.

persistence of organic matter within the pipes of the distribution system, which may hinder the ability to maintain an adequate disinfectant residual. A temporary conversion to free chlorine, partnered with flushing activities, helps to rid distribution pipes of this organic matter and improve the quality of your water overall.

For questions, please contact the City of Taylor Utilities Department at 512-352-3251.

PROJECT UPDATES

As part of our ongoing commitment to improving the quality of life in Taylor, we're excited to provide an update on key projects around the city.

Whether it's infrastructure improvements, park enhancements, public safety initiatives, or new city programs, you'll find everything you need to stay connected and engaged.

Downtown Master Plan

On Monday, November 18, the City held its second community meeting about the Downtown Master Plan update. At this meeting, residents were asked to weigh in on projects and features that should be added to the downtown master plan.

The meeting was held from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church at 111 W Rio Grande St.



[CLICK HERE FOR A RECORDING OF THE MEETING AND TO VIEW THE PRESENTATION.](#)

Wellness & Recreation Center Feasibility Study



The second community meeting for the Wellness and Recreation Center Feasibility Study was held on Wednesday, November 20. At the meeting, the results of the months-long survey were presented. The survey launched on September 25 at the last community meeting. There were two components, a statistically valid survey with targeted participants based on their demographics that reflect that of the community. This was a statistically valid survey with a 95% confidence level of accuracy. The second part was an online survey that anyone could take. The online survey has ended. The results of both surveys will be publicly available soon.

The team also presented preliminary analysis of the survey data combined with information gathered at the last public meeting and direction from the steering committee. Check out the video below to watch the presentation.

At the end of the meeting, there was a short activity to gain feedback on the spaces that were identified as a top priority, what people liked best, what people didn't like, etc.



[CLICK HERE FOR A RECORDING OF THE MEETING AND TO VIEW THE PRESENTATION.](#)

DORIS ROZNOVAK AQUATIC CENTER UPDATE

Project Overview

The Doris Roznovak Aquatic Center has been a beloved gathering place for families all over Taylor for many years. Unfortunately, over the years the foundations of the pool have been failing and will soon no longer hold water. Because of this, the Parks and Recreation Department will soon embark on a reconstruction project to revitalize the Aquatic Center. A conceptual design created by Brannon Corp was approved by City Council in May 2024 to construct a new facility that will feature lap lanes, a lazy river, beach entry, water features, a play structure, and waterslide.

November Update

During the November 14 Regular City Council meeting, Council approved awarding a construction contract to GCreek Construction for the reconstruction of the Doris Roznovak Aquatic Center for a total of \$7,880,583.50. Funding for the project will come from the 2022 Certificates of Obligation Bond, 2024 Certificates of Obligation Bond, and 2025 General Fund dollars allocated for Parks projects.

Construction is anticipated to begin in early December 2024. The project is estimated to be completed by August 2025. .



[CLICK HERE TO STAY UP TO DATE ON PROJECT UPDATES](#)



WANTED: MOODY MUSEUM DOCENT

Are you a Texan at heart with a passion for history and a gift for storytelling? Join us as a Museum Docent at the Dan Moody Museum and share your love for Texas with visitors from all over the world! The Dan Moody Museum is looking for a Museum Docent who is passionate about Texas history and culture to lead tours and educate visitors about the life and legacy of the youngest governor in Texas history. Docents will receive training and work with a supportive team of volunteers and staff. The role offers the chance to give back to the community, meet new people, and share a love for Texas.

Responsibilities

- Communicate and engage with guests, narrate and present an informative and engaging tour of the Dan Moody Museum.
- Drive electronic cataloging efforts of the museum's historical collections.
- Steward the museum and communicate museum needs to the responsible party.

Required Experience

Cataloging materials and generating an inventory of assets. General Texas history knowledge. Customer service skills. Public speaking skills. This is a part-time, contracted position in person at the Moody Museum, 114 W. 9th St. Send your resume and cover letter to: ruby.fisher@taylorltx.gov.

More info here!



A background image showing several shopping bags and gift tags. In the foreground, a brown paper bag is partially open, revealing white tissue paper with gold polka dots. Behind it, a red bag and a green tag with a white geometric pattern are visible. The scene is festive and suggests holiday shopping.

ONLINE SHOPPING TIPS

Cyber Savvy Holiday Shopping

As holiday shopping ramps up, many Americans are more cautious with their spending this season due to ongoing economic uncertainty. According to insights from the National Cybersecurity Alliance (NCA), the key to safe and cheerful holiday shopping is staying vigilant against cyber threats that target online shoppers each year. Here's a quick guide on what to do—and avoid—to protect your wallet and information this holiday season.

Smart Cyber Practices

1. **Monitor Your Financial Records:** Keep a close watch on your bank statements and credit card activity to quickly catch any fraudulent charges. Reviewing your statements regularly and reporting suspicious transactions can be your first line of defense against identity theft.
2. **Check Prices Twice:** Knowing the standard prices for items can help you spot scams. Be wary of “deals” that seem too good to be true, as they may indicate counterfeit products or fraudulent websites. A little research goes a long way toward protecting you from untrustworthy sellers.
3. **Follow the NCA's Cybersecurity Basics:** The NCA recommends adopting these "Core 4" behaviors for online safety:
 - Use unique, strong passwords for each account, ideally 12 characters or more, and consider using a password manager.
 - Enable multi-factor authentication (MFA) on accounts that offer it.
 - Set up automatic software updates to keep your devices protected.
 - Be cautious with emails and messages, knowing how to spot phishing attempts and report them.

Shopping Pitfalls

Steer Clear of Public Wi-Fi for

Purchases: Public networks can be easily hacked, making your sensitive information vulnerable. If you must shop on the go, use a secure VPN or mobile hotspot to protect your data.

Beware of “Grinch Bots”: These automated bots buy up high-demand items to resell at inflated prices, often flooding the resale market with counterfeit or compromised goods. Buy only from verified retailers to avoid falling prey to “Grinch Bot” tactics.

Don't Overshare: While some data sharing is necessary to complete a purchase, you should be wary if a retailer is asking for excessive information. Share only what's necessary, and consider finding another vendor if a site asks for too much personal data.

Source: staysafeonline.org

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

From the Taylor Fire Department



Your Taylor Fire Department wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and wants to remind you that a safe 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 the 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.

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.

**Reminder: Fireworks are not permitted in Taylor City limits.
Let's keep our community safe and follow local regulations!**

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT ...

Arbor Day Tree Planting | November 9



HOME Program Turnover | November 25



Congratulations to our 2024 HOME Program recipients. Keys were turned over to the homeowners on Monday, November 25, by Mayor Dwayne Ariola, Mayor Pro Tem Kelly Cmerek, and Council Member Shelli Cobb along with members of the City of Taylor staff.

Congratulations to Daniel Warriner, Cathi Lino, San Juanita Luna, and Rose Williams.

The City currently participates in the Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance (HRA) of the HOME program which provides funding for the rehabilitation or reconstruction of single-family homes for eligible applicants.



[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE HOME PROGRAM](#)

CITY MEETINGS



3

Zoning Board of Adjustment

6:00 PM | CITY HALL | 400 PORTER ST

10

Planning & Zoning Commission

6:00 PM | CITY HALL | 400 PORTER ST

12

City Council Meeting

6:00 PM | CITY HALL | 400 PORTER ST

18

Main Street Advisory Board

5:00 PM | CITY HALL | 400 PORTER ST

18

Tax Increment Finance #1 Board

5:00 PM | CITY HALL | 400 PORTER ST

DECEMBER



COMMUNITY EVENTS

7

Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting Ceremony

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM | HERITAGE SQUARE

12

Greater Taylor Foundation Awards Luncheon & Impact Update

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM | FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 2500 MALLARD LN.

14

2nd Saturday Christmas Bazaar

3:00 PM - 7:00 PM | HERITAGE SQUARE

14

Rudolph's Ride

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM | PERCUSSION PARK IN MURPHY PARK

PARKS EVENTS



Zumba

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



Senior Fit

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



Pilates

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



Yoga

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



Drum Fit

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



Senior Fit

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



Boot Camp

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



Drum Fit

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

DECEMBER

LIBRARY EVENTS

TAYLOR PUBLIC LIBRARY

7

Christmas Party

NOON-2:00 PM

7

Puzzle Swap

2:30 PM

9

Grief Support

6:30 PM

11

Senior Social

2:00 PM

14

Gift Bag Decorating

NOON | FAMILY EVENT

21

Ornament Making

NOON | FAMILY EVENT

23

Grief Support

6:30 PM

WEEKLY

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

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24

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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.



November 14 Meeting

7-ELEVEN REQUEST FOR ALCOHOL SALE VARIANCE, DORIS ROZNOVAK AQUATIC CENTER RENOVATIONS, PERMIT PROCESS AUDIT CONTRACT AWARDED...



View all past meetings at 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

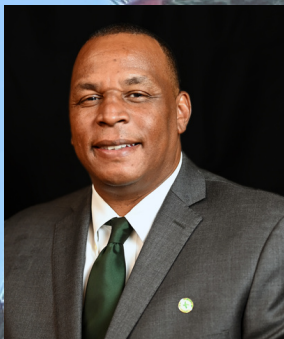
SOCIAL MEDIA



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)