



# COMMUNITY CONNECTION



DECEMBER 2025

VOL. 21 | ISSUE 12



# YOUR CITY COUNCIL







## MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

As another year comes to a close, now is the perfect time to reflect on all the improvements we've accomplished together as a community in 2025.

This year, we made significant progress on updating our roadways as part of the Taylor Streets Project. Work included resurfacing and striping on TH Johnson Drive, Bill Pickett Trail, Lake Drive, and Mallard Lane, along with improvements to 2nd and 4th streets. These upgrades will help extend the life and reliability of these key roadways.

Work is underway on Phase 1 of the Bull Branch upsizing project, which will provide a much-needed increase to sewer main capacity between 7th Street and MLK Jr. Boulevard. In addition, the City purchased a building that will serve as the new home of our Public Works Department.

Looking ahead to 2026, the City of Taylor will celebrate its Sesquicentennial—a year-long commemoration of our rich history that began with the railroad in 1876. In the coming weeks, we'll share a special announcement highlighting the events and activities planned for this milestone year.

As 2025 winds down, I look forward to building on our momentum and continuing our work to make Taylor a vibrant, welcoming place to live, work, and play. Taylor may be turning 150 in 2026, but we're just getting started!

*Brian Laborde*



# CITY NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Niecy Baum Joins City As New Downtown Director

Welcome Niecy Baum, the City's new Downtown Director. She brings more than 15 years of experience in project management, operations, and community development to her role. Most recently, she served as the Community Development Director for the City of Pittsburg, Texas, where she led Main Street revitalization, economic development, planning, and historic preservation efforts.

[Get To Know Niecy Baum](#)

## Free Chlorine Burn

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

[More About The Process](#)



## Red Santa Donations

Operation Red Santa is currently accepting donations. Suggested items include games, puzzles, sports balls, throw blankets and teen items like make up and nail polish. Gifts or cash donations can be dropped off at either Fire Station or at the Taylor Fire Department Administration Office. Deadline is Monday, December 15.

[More About Red Santa](#)

## No Fireworks In City Limits

As we get ready to celebrate the new year, here's a reminder that fireworks are not allowed in the City of Taylor or within 5,000 feet of city limits. It is illegal to sell, be in possession of, and/or discharge fireworks in Taylor, including sparklers and Roman candles. Let's keep our community safe—celebrate responsibly!

[Read The Ordinance Here](#)





# IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

## Arbor Day Tree Planting | November 8



## Christmas Decoration Restoration | November 16







**REIMAGINED**

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN  
FOR THE 2026 CLASS!**

**APPLY BY DECEMBER 31, 2025**

**SESSIONS BEGIN JANUARY 21, 2026  
9 SESSIONS | MONTHLY | 9AM-4PM**

## CLASS INFORMATION

The City of Taylor is recruiting engaged citizens who want to learn more about their city for the 2026 LEAD Taylor program. The program is changing this year. This new 9-session course will take you on a journey of personal development and understanding your community. Hear from industry, education, nonprofits, local government, state government, and more as we equip you to help usher in the future of Taylor.

The Class of 2026 will include personal and professional development and discussions about Local Government, Education, Industry, Economy, Nonprofits, Healthcare, Quality of Life, History, and Public Safety. Each session will be packed with information, activities, tours, and challenging discussions.

To qualify for the program, applicants must reside in the City of Taylor, work in the City of Taylor, OR own property in the City of Taylor. They must be able to commit to attend all 9 classes.

For additional information about the LEAD Taylor program or for sponsorships, call 512-309-6790 or email [communications@taylortx.gov](mailto:communications@taylortx.gov).

**Click Here To Submit  
Your Application**

OR SCAN  
THE QR  
CODE



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# HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

*From the Taylor Fire Department*



**The Taylor Fire Department wishes you and your family a very Merry Christmas! To help keep your holidays merry and bright, here are a few safety tips to keep in mind:**

## **While decorating:**

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame-resistant or flame-retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other flammable items.
- 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.



# CITY MEETINGS



2

## **Zoning Board of Adjustment**

6:00 PM | CITY HALL | 400 PORTER ST.

9

## **Planning and Zoning Commission**

6:00 PM | CITY HALL | 400 PORTER ST.

11

## **City Council Meeting**

6:00 PM | CITY HALL | 400 PORTER ST

17

## **Main Street Advisory Board**

5:00 PM | CITY HALL | 400 PORTER ST

17

## **Parks and Recreation Board**

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

DECEMBER





# COMMUNITY EVENTS

6

## Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting

STARTS AT 3:00 PM | HERITAGE SQUARE PARK

13

## Taylor Second Saturdays

ALL DAY | DOWNTOWN

13

## Historic Downtown Walking Tour

10:00 AM | CURBSIDE COFFEE CO. | 114 W 2ND ST

18

## Red Santa Gift Wrapping

5:00 PM | FIRE STATION 1 - 200 WASHBURN ST

19

## Ornament Making

12:00 PM | MEMORIAL FIELDHOUSE

## CLOSURES

24

All City of Taylor  
Offices will be closed

25

Dec. 24 & 25 for the  
Christmas holiday

## CLOSURES

1

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



# PARKS EVENTS



## 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



## Butts 'N' Guts

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



## Senior Fit

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

## NOTICE

**The last day for Fitness Classes for the year is Friday, Dec. 19. They will resume on Monday, Jan. 5, with a new schedule.**

## Youth Basketball League

**Open to ages 5 - 14**

DEADLINE FOR  
REGISTRATION IS DEC. 5.  
COST IS \$95/PLAYER

PRACTICES BEGIN THE WEEK OF  
JAN. 12 AT THE EVENT CENTER  
GYM (3101 N MAIN ST)

GAME DAYS: SATURDAYS, JAN.  
17 - FEB. 28 AT TAYLOR MIDDLE  
SCHOOL

FREE CLINICS FOR THE ENTIRE  
LEAGUE IN DECEMBER! SCAN  
THE QR CODE TO REGISTER



# DECEMBER



# LIBRARY EVENTS

2

## Caregiver Support Group

10:00 AM

6

## LEGO Play

10:00 AM

6

## Puzzle Swap

12:30 PM

8

## Grief Support

6:30 PM

13

## Movie Day: "Rise of the Guardians"

10:00 AM

16

## Senior Tech Class

10:00 AM

16

## Puzzle Mosaic Workshop

6:30 PM

20

## Holiday Party

10:00 AM

22

## Grief Support

6:30 PM

27

## Sensory Hour

10:00 AM

## WEEKLY

M

## Chair Yoga

MONDAYS | 9:30 AM

W

## Storytime

WEDNESDAYS | 10:30 AM

W

## Senior Social

WEDNESDAYS | 2:00 PM

TH

## Chair Yoga

THURSDAYS | 9:30 AM

TH

## Chair Massage

THURSDAYS | 10:30 AM

F

## Senior Social

FRIDAYS | 2:00 PM | DEC. 19 ONLY

## CLOSURES

12

The Library will be closed on Friday, December 12

## CLOSURES

24

The Library will be closed on Dec. 24 and 25 for Christmas

25

## CLOSURES

1

The Library will be closed Thursday, Jan. 1, for New Year's Day



# 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 13 Meeting

THE COUNCIL INTRODUCED A BUDGET AMENDMENT, RECEIVED A PLAN FOR THE UPCOMING LEVEL-UP STREET IMPROVEMENTS, APPROVED A NEW DOWNTOWN VACANT BUILDING ORDINANCE, AND APPROVED A CONSTRUCTION AGREEMENT TO START WORK ON THE JUSTICE CENTER.



**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

[Click Here to Subscribe](#)



## City Newsletter

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE THIS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

[Click Here to Subscribe](#)



## City Web News

RECEIVE THE LATEST AS IT HAPPENS

[Click Here to Subscribe](#)



## Meeting/Event Reminders

RECEIVE REMINDERS OF UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

[Click Here to Subscribe](#)

# SOCIAL MEDIA



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





VISIT HISTORIC DOWNTOWN

## CITY OF TAYLOR COUNCIL



Left to Right: Greg Redden (District 1), Shelli Cobb (District 2),  
Mayor Dwayne Ariola (At-Large), Mayor Pro Tem Kelly Cmerek  
(District 3), Heather Long (District 4)