

Community Connection

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Taylor Fire Chief Ekiss Receives Governor's Appointment

Gov. Rick Perry has appointed Fire Chief Pat Ekiss to the Texas Commission on Fire Protection for a term to expire February 1, 2017. Williamson County Justice of the Peace, Precinct Four, Judge Judy Hobbs performed the swearing-in ceremony.



The Commission creates rules and standards by which the Texas Fire Service operates through the authority defined by Chapter 419 of the Texas Government Code. The mission of the Texas Commission on Fire Protection is to help protect the lives and property of the citizens of Texas by developing and enforcing professional standards for the fire service. It also

establishes and enforces standards for fire protection personnel training, protective clothing and self-contained breathing apparatus.

A 30-year veteran of the fire service, Ekiss has been the Taylor Fire Chief since May 2010. He also serves as the Emergency Management Coordinator and is a certified EMT/paramedic. Chief Ekiss has served for 27 years as a fire services instructor at the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service Emergency Services Training Institute. Among many other professional organizations, he is the current secretary/treasurer of the Texas Fire Chiefs Association and a member of the State Fire Marshal Line of Duty Death Task Force Review Board.

Taylor Fire Department Profile

“Serving with Pride, Taking Ownership, Seeking Excellence and Making a Difference,” is the main objective of the Taylor Fire Department.

Under the management and leadership of Chief Ekiss, the department provides fire, emergency medical, rescue, emergency management, (continued on back page - see *Profile*)



City Manager's Message

November is a special month. Please join us this month on Veterans Day, November 11, to recognize and remember our Veterans who have protected our country and fought for our freedom over the years.

We salute those who currently serve to keep our country free and who fight valiantly for peace.

Remember to exercise your personal freedom and right to vote as we hold the general election on November 6.

Last, but not least, let us come together in thanksgiving for family, freedom and community as we celebrate the Thanksgiving holidays.

- Jim D. Dunaway

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400 Porter Street Taylor, TX 76574 512.352.3675 www.taylor.tx.gov



Recent Council Action

Holly Springs Drainage Improvements project – A bid award has been approved for Smith Contracting in the amount of \$872,400 for constructing a new drainage channel and culverts for Holly Springs Dr. and Donna Dr. This project will be funded by the MDUS utility and 2012 bond proceeds. The project should begin in October with a proposed completion by April 2013 if weather permits.

Fire Protection Project for newly annexed areas – A bid award was approved for SBS Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$125,000 for adding 20 new fire hydrants to be installed on water systems within the recently annexed areas. These hydrants will be installed on water mains owned by Jonah SUD, Manville WSC and the City of Taylor.

Requirements for Burning within the city limits – The Council approved this Ordinance 2012-18 that provides standards for controlled burns within the city limits. This ordinance had not been updated since 1956. The document closely follows TCEQ requirements that ensure all regulations established by the State of Texas and the Texas Forest Service are met. This ordinance can be found on the city's website: www.taylor.tx.gov.

Good Life Fair

The Good Life Fair is a fun filled event that will be held 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, October 27 at Robinson Park, 206 South Dolan.



The Fair will partner the Taylor Animal Shelter with local groups for a fun-filled day of activities to raise funds for the nonprofit, no-kill shelter.

The event will feature a 1-mile "Squawk Walk" fun run, Chicken Splat Bingo, chili lunch, poultry zoo, information booths and games. The grand finale is a cascarones/confetti egg battle for the kids. For more information, contact Julie Rydell at 512-294-1972 or by email davisrydell@gmail.com.

Profile - continued from front page

hazardous materials responses, fire prevention, education, fire investigations and code enforcement as an essential service to the community.

The Fire Department provides professional, efficient and effective service to all in need. The department is currently staffed with 23 firefighters and one administrative assistant.

Each of the firefighters is a Texas Department of Health certified EMT and Texas Commission on Fire Protection certified firefighter.



New statue contributed to the Taylor Public Library by The Woman's Study Club

Community Events

Arbor Day Celebration

Tree planting in Murphy Park
9:30 a.m. – 12 noon
Saturday, October 20

Fall Clean Up

Collection sites: 1424 N. Main and 1200 Welch Street
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Saturday, October 20

Good Life Fair Benefit

for the Taylor Animal Shelter
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Saturday, October 27
Robinson Park

Halloween Spooktacular

6-9 p.m., Downtown Taylor
Wednesday, October 31

Taylor Annual Fly-In & Air Race

8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Taylor Municipal Airport
Saturday, November 10

Reminders

November 4 - Fall Back

Daylight Savings Time Change

November 6 – Election Day

All voting will be held at your Williamson County Precinct
Location (7 a.m.-7 p.m.)

Early voting:

City Hall, 400 Porter
Oct. 22 – Nov. 2
Mondays-Fridays (7 a.m.-7 p.m.)
Sunday (12 noon – 6 p.m.)

Closures

All City offices will be closed for **Veterans Day**
Monday, November 12
(Garbage will not be affected)

Thanksgiving Holiday

Thursday and Friday
November 22 and 23
The Library will be closed on Saturday, November 24
(Garbage is delayed one day)