

# Community Connection

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## Gateway to Taylor West Second Street is Open

Williamson County and City of Taylor officials celebrated the completion of rebuilding West Second Street from the Highway 79 Loop to Main Street.

This major project was done in two stages. All drainage and utilities were replaced by the City of Taylor at a cost of approximately \$3 million and the roadway improvements of approximately \$14 million were funded by Williamson County.



*Ribbon cutting by Mayor Don Hill and Commissioner Ron Morrison with Councilmen Brandt Rydell and Chris Gonzales looking on.*

Design and planning began in 2008 and construction was completed over the past two years.

## West Second Street Corridor Plan

West Second Street has been a major thoroughfare in Taylor since the City was incorporated. It has been Business U. S. Highway 79. As the major commercial corridor, it is home to long-standing businesses and primary employers. Now, with the infrastructure improvements being finalized, the Council has directed city staff to analyze the corridor and make recommendations to encourage the following strategic objectives:

- Compliment the improvements that have been made to the thoroughfare
- Encourage beautification as a gateway
- Enhance code enforcement (grass, trash and debris)
- Encourage continued investment and development

## Getting Started

The first year will include an enhanced focus on code enforcement along the corridor. Public meetings will be conducted in the corridor area and volunteers will be recruited to be involved in the plan's implementation.

An initial allocation of funds will be budgeted to assist with the plan, accompanied with thoughtful planning for future funding to sustain the project and a review of economic development incentives.



## City Manager's Message

It's a great feeling to drive down West Second Street and see the improvements that have been made, not only to the roadway, but the addition of sidewalks and curb and gutters.

In another year, we won't recognize the area as additional improvements are made with new street lighting and landscaping.

The West Second Street Corridor Plan is the next step to continue the momentum in improving this gateway into our city.

This will be a community project and I hope you all will share our enthusiasm. Your participation and input is welcome in helping to make our community proud.

- Jim D. Dunaway

**Community Connection** is a monthly publication of the City of Taylor

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## New Garbage Rates on April Billing

The City Council approved a formal request from Progressive Waste Solution of Texas (IESI) to adjust their prices due to increases in costs of labor, health insurance, disposal and diesel fuel and to extend their contract by one year. A 2.3 percent increase in garbage rates was approved. The base residential rate will increase from \$11.66 per month to \$11.92 (or \$0.26) per household and the charge for additional carts will go from \$3.79 to \$3.87 per month, an increase of \$0.08.

The new rates will be reflected in the April billing for residents. Commercial rates may be found in the Fee Schedule for City Services 2012-13 on the City's website. The Council also approved the one-year extension request. For additional information, contact the Utility Billing Department at 352-2066.

## City Awarded Tree City USA Honors



Recreation Superintendent Mike DeVito with Tree City USA Award

The City of Taylor has received the designation of Tree City USA by The Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters.

To achieve this recognition, a community must commit to a viable tree management plan and program. The City has established a Tree Advisory Board, adopted a Tree Care Ordinance, observes Arbor Day and maintains a Community Forestry Program. All of these standards were established in order to receive the recognition. Recreation Superintendent Mike DeVito leads this initiative.

## Communications Update

### Council Meetings Online

City Council meetings are now available online live via video streaming at <http://www.taylortx.gov/video>. You can watch council meetings as they are being held on your computer or select any of the videos of council meetings held since May 10, 2012. The Council meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month with a few exceptions made by the Council during the year.

### Time Warner Channel 10

New daily programming is now available on Channel 10, including:

- 9 a.m. – Short videos from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- 10 a.m. – Jazzercise videos
- 3 p.m. – Features from NASA TV
- 5 p.m. - Briefs from other government and civic educational sources
- 6 p.m. – Video of the most recent City Council meeting
- 10 p. m. – Rerun video of the most recent City Council meeting

### Now on Facebook



Go to [www.facebook.com/cityoftaylortexas](http://www.facebook.com/cityoftaylortexas) to see the City's new Facebook page: Taylor, Texas – Municipal Government. Here you will find the most current information on city events and activities. Go to [www.facebook.com/taylortv10](http://www.facebook.com/taylortv10) for new and current programming and information on local activities that are carried on Time Warner's Channel 10.

## Calendar



### American Cancer Society Relay for Life

Friday, April 26  
6 p.m. – 12 Midnight  
(One night only this year)  
at Memorial Field



### Taylor Zest Fest

10 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Saturday, May 4  
Historic Downtown Taylor  
on Main Street

### City Election



### Early Voting

8 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
April 29 – May 4  
7 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
May 6 & 7 at City Hall



### Election Day - May 11

7 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
Vote Centers located at City Hall  
or Northside School Board Room

## Reminders

### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

April 11 & 25  
May 9 & 23  
6 p.m. at City Hall

## Memorial Day Closures

All City of Taylor offices and Taylor Public Library will be closed May 25 & 27 for Memorial Day holiday. (*Garbage service will not be affected.*)