

Community Connection



Photo by Andy Sharp Photography

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Garbage Rate Increase

Commercial and residential garbage rates will increase by one percent effective February 1, 2015. The new monthly residential rate will change from \$11.92 to \$12.04 for one cart and \$3.91 for each additional cart. This is a difference of \$0.12 per month per unit. These new rates will appear on billing dates as follows:

Zone 4 – March 26	Zone 1 – April 5
Zone 2 – April 12	Zone 3 – April 19

The City fee schedule is available on the City website: www.taylor.tx.gov. For additional information, contact Utility Billing at 512-352-2066.

Free Tax Assistance

The Williamson County Financial Stability Coalition is offering free tax filing for households earning less than \$53,000 annually and for senior citizens. Spanish speaking representatives are available. The service will be provided until April 15 at the following locations:

Taylor City Hall, 400 Porter Street, Mondays and Wednesdays 4:30-8:30 pm, and Saturdays, 9 am-3pm.

Taylor Public Library, 801 Vance Street, Wednesdays 12 noon-4 pm.

Fred Switzer Honored

Fred Switzer has been known by citizens for representing the Taylor community as the “Voice of Taylor” for over 62 years as a radio announcer for KTAE AM and KRXT FM radio stations. The City Council honored him with a Proclamation on January 8, 2015 recognizing and honoring Mr. Switzer upon his retirement from the career he cherished the most.

Among his many contributions to the community include being a former member of the Taylor City Council, board member and former president of the Taylor Independent School District, co-founder of the United Seniors of Taylor and the Switzer Senior Center, past officer and member of the American Legion Post 39 and former president and current member of the Taylor Kiwanis Club.



A Message From The City Manager



I have reached my six-month anniversary as your City Manager. I have completed individual meetings with more than 70 citizens. Here is an update.

At City Hall, the front lobby is being renovated for improvements to the Development Services Department that will provide a better customer experience when getting permits, plan reviews, zoning changes and general development information.

We also have searches underway to fill the Assistant City Manager position and for a new Human Resources Director.

The Council will update the strategic plan for the future of Taylor. The last plan was in 2008 and for the most part has been accomplished.

We have a city that is full of exciting potential and I look forward to the challenges ahead.

- Isaac

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New Fire Apparatus Purchase

The Council approved a lease-purchase of a new 2015 Pierce PUC 105 Aerial device with a Velocity Chassis, custom built Quint for \$1,030,100. It will be financed for 15 years at an interest rate of 3.79% with annual payments of \$91,321.87.

The Fire Department has several pieces of equipment with mechanical maintenance issues and is seeking to replace the two oldest vehicles in its fleet, a 1995 Pumper and a 1999 75-foot Quint/Ladder truck. Due to budget constraints only one truck is being considered for financing this year.

City Election Deadline

The deadline is 5 p.m. on February 27 to file for the City Council openings for District 2 (currently held by Chris Gonzales Sr.) and District 3 (currently held by Brandt Rydell).

Applicants and voters must live in these respective districts. Vote centers will include the Taylor Public Library, 801 Vance St., and Naomi Pasemann Elementary School, 2809 North Drive, for the May 9, 2015 election day.

For more information, call the City Clerk at 512-352-3676.

West End School

The City Council approved an agreement with Sparks Engineering to perform a structural evaluation of the 1920 West End School building at a cost of \$3,200. The building is located on the southwest corner of Ferguson St. and West Fourth St. A public meeting was held in June of 2014 to gain public input about the potential use or disposition of the building.



The Council recommended that a structural evaluation followed by a real estate appraisal should be done before final recommendations can be made about the disposition of the building.

Correction to TIF Funded Projects

In the January issue of Community Connection, the amount of TIF funds mentioned in the "Year in Review" article was inaccurate. For the fiscal year 2014-15, the total includes approved and pending projects equalling \$228,600. This includes \$100,000 for the Downtown Master Plan and the balance is budgeted for other improvements within the TIF District.

Water Smart Tip:

One drip every second adds up to 5 gallons per day! Check your faucets and showerheads for leaks.

For more smart water tips and ideas, visit:

www.takecareoftexas.org and www.wateruseitwisely.com



Community Events

Moody Museum Victorian Valentine Gala



Thursday, February 12

4-8 pm, \$25 per person

Moody Museum Fundraiser

Closings

All City offices will be closed
Presidents Day, February 16

The Taylor Public Library also
will be closed on February 14

(Garbage collection schedule
will be not be affected.)

City Council Meetings

Thursdays, February 12 & 26
Thursdays, March 12 & 26 2015
All meetings begin at 6 p.m. and
are held at City Hall

