

A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER



Mr. Turner and Mr. Bernal meet with new Development Services Director, Ashley Lumpkin, and temporary Deputy Building Official, Janet Gallagher on their first days working for the City of Taylor.

I had the privilege recently of attending the groundbreaking ceremony for the Williamson County Expo Center project in Taylor. This expansion will add more than 48,000 square feet and offer space for many types of activities, sporting and special events to take place in our community. In addition to the expansion, the Expo Center will be renovated and enhanced to maximize the existing facility and provide upgrades to meet the growing needs of the county.

With this development project underway and many other projects coming to a close in Taylor, such as Gatti's Pizza and the TEDC Industrial Spec building, it's hard not to look at the bright future here. This expansion project in particular can have vast economic impacts in regards to tourism and bringing in new people to our town. Our neighbors throughout Williamson County will also be spending more time here attending events and activities hosted at the Expo Center, which in turn benefits Taylor.

As this project comes to completion in the future, know that the City is working diligently to bring further expansion to our town by working with developers, businesses, hotels and more to serve the needs of our growing community. The Williamson County Expo Center expansion project is a huge step in the right direction for Taylor and will benefit us greatly.

-Isaac

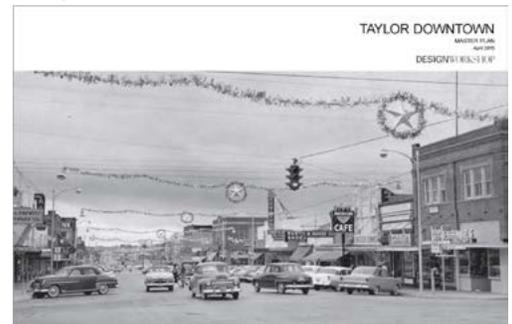
DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN WINS TEXAS APA AWARD

The City of Taylor's Downtown Master Plan was chosen as a recipient of the 2015 Texas Chapter of the American Planning Association's Project Planning Award in recognition for exemplary planning.

The Downtown Master Plan proposes strategies to revitalize Downtown Taylor's unique history and heritage, encourage pedestrian focused improvements, and promote economic vitality.

The City of Taylor Downtown Master Plan was created in conjunction with Design Workshop, a landscape architecture, planning, urban design and strategic services company located in Austin, and Cobb Fendley & Associates. Following comprehensive public and stakeholder engagement, the plan considers planning scenarios to make streetscape and gateway entry improvements, stimulate infill development and enhance Heritage Square and our pedestrian and vehicle wayfinding.

The award was presented at this year's APA Texas Chapter State Planning Conference in Galveston, Texas on Oct. 9, 2015.



WELCOME OUR NEW DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR



Ashley Lumpkin joined the City of Taylor staff as the new Director of Development Services in September. She has more than 14 years' experience in the planning field and most recently worked for the City of Round Rock for nine years as a senior planner. She has an extensive background working in cities with exponential growth in the last 10 years, including Chandler and Queen Creek Ariz., Plano and Round Rock. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners since 2008 and has been recognized for her creative problem solving and customer service skills.

"I look forward to making a lasting, positive impact as the City of Taylor's Development Services Director," said Ms. Lumpkin. "I am excited to begin establishing relationships with the community and streamlining the development processes in the coming weeks."

Ashley earned her Master of Business Administration in Public Administration from the University of Phoenix in Phoenix, Ariz. in 2008 and her Bachelor's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas in 2001.

CITY RECEIVES 2 GRANTS BENEFITING THE COMMUNITY

The City of Taylor Police Department and Public Library have recently been awarded two grants in the amount of \$56,455 and \$5,800 that significantly impact the safety and historical documentation of the community.

The Library grant of \$5,800, awarded by the Ladd and Katherine Hancher Library Foundation, will be used to begin restoring and digitizing local newspapers dating back to 1960s with the help of the staff at the Portal to Texas History. The Taylor Daily Press teamed up with the Library to apply for the grant and will assist in the archiving process.

The Taylor Police Department was also awarded a grant from the Office of the Governor (OOG) in the amount of \$56,455 to purchase 10 electronic ticket writing devices that will increase the efficiency and accuracy of traffic enforcement in Taylor.

Currently, the TPD utilizes a handwritten ticket during traffic enforcement stops and the new electronic devices are expected to expedite the ticketing process and also help the Municipal Courts in the event a case is disputed.

LIGHTNING DETECTION SYSTEM INSTALLED IN TAYLOR



The City of Taylor partnered with the Taylor ISD to purchase and install a lightning prediction and warning system at six locations where outdoor school and community activities frequently take place.

The lightning prediction system, manufactured by Thor Guard Inc., is designed to issue warnings of potential lightning using a series of strategically located horns and strobes at the designated locations of installation. The system can predict a lightning strike and issue a warning within a defined geographical region approximately eight to 20 minutes before a lightning strike occurs by using highly sophisticated sensors and computers to

measure and analyze the electrostatic field in the atmosphere.

The lightning detection systems have been installed at these locations: Taylor High School, Murphy Park, Naomi Pasemann Elementary School, Taylor Middle School, T. H. Johnson Elementary and the Taylor Regional Park and Sports Complex Fields.

Two additional systems are being considered at Robinson Park and the Doak Street ball fields in the future.

EARLY VOTING INFORMATION

The Last day to register to vote in the Nov. 3rd election is October 5th. Early voting will be held at City Hall, 400 Porter St. on the following dates and times:

Mon. Oct. 19 - Wed. Oct 28
 Sunday Oct 24
 Thu. Oct. 29 and Fri. Oct. 30
 Election Day, Tues. Nov. 3

8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
 No voting
 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.
 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.



There are multiple voting locations in Taylor including the Library at 801 Vance St. and City Hall, 400 Porter St.

For more info contact Williamson County Elections at 512-943-1630 or visit the website at www.wilco.org

WATER TIP

Install a water-efficient showerhead. It can save the average family 2,900 gallons of water and \$70 in energy and water costs a year.



UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

November

19 THIRD THURSDAY SHOPPING

Peruse the Downtown Taylor area and find local Taylor Made treasures for the holidays at any one of the participating merchants. Extended hours may vary.

December

5 MERRY & BRIGHT STROLL ON MAIN

The merchants of Downtown Taylor invite you to a Merry & Bright Stroll on Main featuring lots of holiday cheer and fun for the family!

5 CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The annual Christmas Bazaar will be held at City Hall this year featuring vendors from around the area. Hours are 10-4.

5 CHRISTMAS PARADE

The Christmas will begin at 7 p.m. and will also feature the THS Choir singing from 6:15 - 7 p.m. at Heritage Square and Santa on the Square after the parade.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

City Offices will be closed on the following days:

Nov. 11 - Veterans Day

(Regular garbage pickup schedule)

Nov. 26-27 - Thanksgiving Holiday

(Garbage pickup delayed 1 day)

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Thursday - November 12

All meetings begin at 6 p.m. and are held at City Hall.

FEATURED EVENT

MERRY & BRIGHT STROLL ON MAIN

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