

Community Connection



Photo by Andy Sharp Photography

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A Message From The City Manager



Since January 2015, City Staff has been developing the budget for the fiscal year (FY) 2015-2016 budget year to present to the City Council in July. It is anticipated that the budget will be adopted in September.

Priorities for the proposed budget include:

- Initial funding for fixing "Poor" rated streets
- Identifying funds to begin the implementation of the Downtown Master Plan
- Rate increases to stabilize the water and sewer fund
- Identifying funding to meet cash match requirements for committed grant projects
- Develop a City-Wide Capital Improvements Program (CIP)
- Fund health insurance cost increases
- Fund modest salary increases

There are numerous challenges as we work to provide services needed by residents at the lowest cost possible.

Your City Staff, under the leadership of the City Council, is continuing to solidify our community's fiscal foundation and improve services while planning for a future in which Taylor prospers. - Isaac

Taylor responds to flooding

City staff, county water rescue teams, churches and residents all came together to respond to one of the worst disasters Taylor has ever experienced. The extreme flooding on Memorial Day was an event not soon to be forgotten. More than 50 families were displaced and a number of businesses suffered water and wind damage that put Taylor on the list to receive federal funding disaster relief. Recovery efforts are continuing as FEMA finalizes their damage assessment. Thanks to all who provided assistance during and after this event.



Trial curbside recycling program to begin

At the request of Council, Progressive Waste Solutions has agreed to offer a select group of residents a free curbside recycling program for a 90-day trial period. The company selected three neighborhoods that will receive separate blue carts for single stream recycled goods that will be picked up every two weeks.

At the end of the program, results will be evaluated and reported to Council for further consideration as a city wide service to residents for a fee.



Bill Pickett Trail honors local rodeo hero

On June 20th, city crews unveiled the new street signs for Bill Pickett Trail. Council approved the name change of North Park Drive to Bill Pickett Trail at their May 14th meeting. The name will also extend to the new access road to the Williamson County



Expo Center as part of its renovation. An increase in visitors is expected once the renovations are completed and the need for a second road is essential as a safety issue in order to move people in and out of the arena and park areas.

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Focus on Code Enforcement

You may notice an increased focus on some elements of our code enforcement ordinances. One area of concern is those homes that are in dire need of paint. Some homes need a new coat, while others have never been painted.

The City adopted the 2003 International Property Maintenance Code in 2008. The Code addresses 'protective treatments' which includes various kinds of siding and exterior paint. "All exterior surfaces, including but not limited to door, door and window frames, cornices, porches, trim, balconies, decks and fences shall be maintained in good condition. Exterior wood surfaces, other than decay-resistant woods, shall be protected from the elements and decay by painting and other protective covering or treatment."

Take some time to LEAD

As a follow up to the Taylor 101 Class offered to citizens last year, the program name has changed to LEAD (Leading; Exploring; Advancing; Developing) and has been expanded to include other entities and is more comprehensive. Students will hear presentations from the city departments, the Chamber of Commerce, Taylor Economic Development Corporation, TISD, and even tour the Williamson County Jail.

The class is free and will meet on one Thursday a month from 12 noon to 5 pm and go from September 17, 2015 to May, 2016. For more information contact Lisa Thompson at 512-352-2247.

Taylor ranks 12th in Niche's "Best Towns in Texas"

Recently, Taylor was named as one of Texas' Best Towns by Niche, a website that offers rankings and statistics on every neighborhood and city in the U.S. to help people find the best places to live, visit, and raise a family. Coming in at the 12th spot out of 100, Taylor was noted for its public schools system, low crime and violent crime rates, and post-high school education to name a few.

'Hide, Lock and Take' program kicks off in Taylor



The Taylor Police Department has initiated a campaign to inform citizens on safeguarding their vehicles and personal property through the Hide, Lock and Take program. This 3-step process reminds people to HIDE your things, LOCK your car, and TAKE your keys to help prevent burglary of personal items and motor vehicles. It is easy to forget to remove items from the bed of a pickup, which can be easily stolen.

Remember, if you see something, say something. Call the Taylor Police Department to report suspicious activity at 512-352-5551.

Water Smart Tip:

Minimize evaporation by watering during the early morning hours when temperatures are cooler and winds are lighter.

For more smart water tips and ideas, visit: www.takecareoftexas.org and www.wateruseitwisely.com



Community Events

Movies in the Park (Taylor Regional Park)

All movies are free and begin at dusk and are shown at the football field. Concessions are available or bring your own.
Friday, August 14 Big Hero 6

Movies at the Library (801 Vance St.)

All movies are free and begin at 2:30. Friends of the Library will be selling water and popcorn.
Monday, July 20 Penguins of Madagascar
Monday, July 27 Strange Magic

38th Annual Taylor International BBQ Cook-Off August 14-15

This year celebrates the 38th gathering of the Taylor International BBQ Cook-Off, bringing together the best master cooks from across the state for a two-day heated competition and superb BBQ.

9-11 Remembrance Event

There will be a parade on Main Street and program held at Heritage Square in honor of all those who lost their lives on 9/11.



Closings

All City offices will be closed Sept. 7, 2015, in observance of Labor Day. Regular garbage schedule.

City Council Meetings

Thursdays, August 13 & 27
All meetings begin at 6 p.m. and are held at City Hall.

