

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER



Mr. Turner with Taylor Council Members & Asst. City Manager Noel Bernal meeting with Rep. Larry Gonzales at the Texas Statehouse for Williamson County Day.

Taylor is no stranger to change and just last month, we welcomed a new council member and held an election for the Mayor's seat. While change can be intimidating, the City is committed to continuing our work towards all the goals previously established by the City Council.

While on the topic of the Council goals, I'd like to provide an update on some of the projects that align with the those goals, including the hotel project, housing development and downtown revitalization efforts.

**HOTEL:** The hotel project, which will consist of a Holiday Inn Express at the North end of Taylor, is in the beginning phases of construction and we should see completion on the project within 12-15 months.

**HOUSING:** In March, the City was notified of a developer who was interested in building a new subdivision near Taylor High School. All rezoning has been accomplished for the project and the development will include 279 lots with 9 acres of open space. This is a big step forward in regards to residential growth and economic vitality for Taylor.

**DOWNTOWN:** in March, the City also received a matching grant approval for Heritage Square updates and a skatepark in Downtown Taylor. Overall, the project will fund more than \$4 million in park upgrades for our community.

There continues to be great things happening in Taylor as the City works toward achieving the goals established.

-Isaac Turner

## TAYLOR RECEIVES \$500,000 MATCHING GRANT FROM TPW

In March, The City of Taylor was notified of their award for a matching grant for \$500,000 from Texas Parks and Wildlife to make enhancements to Heritage Square Park and to build a skatepark in downtown Taylor.

The \$500,000 matching grant will be added to the funding already secured for both projects which included funds from the tax increment financing or TIF district, the City's general fund, land donation, community donations, Project LOOP and additional grant monies.

The combined total for the projects will be more than \$4 million.

"This is a momentous achievement for the City of Taylor and I commend all those involved in making this happen," said former Taylor Mayor Jesse Ancira, Jr. "From the impressive grassroots efforts of Project LOOP to the innovative thinking of our City staff, this award truly showcases the dedication to improving the quality of life in Taylor for everyone."

Both the skatepark and Heritage Square Park were included in the Downtown Master Plan, which was approved in 2015, as improvements that could be made to enhance the overall quality of life and vitality of the city.

"This was a community-wide effort," said Mike DeVito, Director of Parks and Recreation. "The amount of people who came together to bring these projects to life is astounding. From the inception of the Downtown Master Plan to fundraising and cohesive thinking between governmental boards and private citizens, we were able to develop a plan of action that benefits the entire community for generations to come." Preliminary plans for upgrades to Heritage Square Park include:

- Splash pad
- Amphitheater
- Native landscaping
- Restrooms
- Open lawn area

Preliminary plans for the downtown skatepark include:

- Skating area
- Parkour elements
- Native landscaping
- Benches and tables
- Art wall

"This project will be a catalyst for continued improvements in Taylor," said City Manager Isaac Turner. "The City staff prides itself on establishing innovative solutions to complex problems and this is a prime example of what can happen when cities and their communities develop firm partnerships for accomplishing their goals.

Taylor City Council moved to include the skatepark in a Downtown location in 2016. With the help of a citizen donation for land and through the work of the Taylor Parks and Recreation department, Taylor Parks board, Project LOOP and numerous community partners, a location was outlined on Porter St. adjacent to Heritage Square Park.

The City is looking at ways to secure all the funding necessary to complete the improvements to Heritage Square Park at one time instead of taking a phased approach as outlined in the Downtown Master Plan.



## NEW SUBDIVISION COMING TO TAYLOR

The City of Taylor will be receiving a new subdivision from W&B Development in the area located by the Taylor High School at the southeast corner of Carlos G. Parker Blvd. and FM973.

The 67-acre tract of land will house a maximum of 279 lots and includes 9 acres of open space containing a detention pond, home owner's association maintained park with family friendly amenities and a walking trail. Additional features of the subdivision will feature a pedestrian connection to Taylor High School and increased masonry standards for those home backing FM973.

The homes in this new development area will meet a minimum lot size of 6,000 square feet, will include masonry standards defined as stone, brick, stucco and up to 75 percent of horizontally installed cement based siding and homes will have two car garages and with front and rear porches.

Construction is expected to being this summer.



## GET READY TO STOMP 'N' HOLLER AT BBQ AND MUSIC FESTIVAL!

It's back y'all! This is an event, nay - experience that you won't want to miss in the heart of Taylor. The Stomp 'n' Holler BBQ and Music Festival is set for June 3rd in Heritage Square where you can enjoy phenomenal BBQ, craft beer and live music from Grammy award-winning band, The Mavericks!

With 10 of the most revered BBQ pitmasters in the state cooking to indulge your every BBQ dream - including Louie Mueller's, Black's BBQ, Stiles Switch and Southside Market to name a few - it's a BBQ lover's destination.

Tickets are available at [www.stomphollerfest.com](http://www.stomphollerfest.com) and you might want to get them before they're gone because you can't get them at the festival!



## SIGN UP FOR EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS WITH BB CONNECT

The City of Taylor offers citizens and business owners an emergency notification system that's free through Blackboard Connect. The system is used to notify residents through email, phone, cell phone and/or SMS messages in the event of an emergency or natural disaster. Users can opt-in with whichever notification method they'd like to receive the messages through the BB Connect portal.

Simply sign up online at <https://cityoftaylor.bbcportal.com/> or by clicking on the "Emergency Notification System" link on they city's website [www.taylor.tx.gov](http://www.taylor.tx.gov).

## LIBRARY RECEIVES 20 NEW IPADS FOR AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Taylor Public Library is the recipient of a grant for iPads for an After School Advantage computer lab thanks to International Game Technology (IGT). As part of the donation, Taylor Public Library received 20 iPads and a charging station. This donation will allow students of the Library's after school program access to educational and informational programs that were before limited due to the number of computers available to students. This is the 12th IGT After School Advantage computer lab installed in Texas.

The TPL hopes to host programming centered around robotics and coding with the new iPads.



Rep. Larry Gonzales with a student at the grand opening ceremony.

## UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

### JUNE

#### 3 INTERNATIONAL BBQ COOK-OFF

This year's International BBQ cook-off will be held in Murphy Park. Interested participants should contact Irene Michna.

#### 3 STOMP 'N' HOLLER FESTIVAL

Come on out for a BBQ experience like none other at the Stomp 'N' Holler BBQ & Music Festival held in Heritage Square. Live music, craft beer and most importantly, the best BBQ around! Festival begins at 2 p.m. for VIP ticket holders and 3 p.m. for general admission. Tickets are only available online before the event so check out [www.stomphollerfest.com](http://www.stomphollerfest.com) for more details.

#### 5 SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Join the Taylor Public Library for the Summer Reading Program which begins on June 5th and runs through the end of July. Movies, shows and loads of fun await participants. For more info and a full schedule, visit [www.taylor.tx.gov/library](http://www.taylor.tx.gov/library).

#### 9 MOVIES IN THE PARK - SING

Come on out to Heritage Square for our showing of Sing. Movies begin at Dusk.

#### 15 THIRD THURSDAY

Taylor's Downtown merchants invite you to join them for fun, festivities and shopping in the downtown district. Shops open late.

#### 16-18 JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

The Blackshear/O.L. Price Ex-Student Association will host the Juneteenth celebration & Bill Pickett Day in Fannie Robinson Park. A meet & greet will be held on Friday with a gospel brunch and pageant on Saturday. Sunday evening will be host to a music under the stars event.

### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

#### Thursdays - June 8 & 22

All meetings begin at 6 p.m. and are held at City Hall. View online at [www.taylor.tx.gov](http://www.taylor.tx.gov) or through the City of Taylor mobile app.