

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER



City Of Taylor

Quality of life is one of the three pillars that City Council and staff focus on for the residents of Taylor. With that, recreational opportunities are a priority, and I am happy to report that two projects are moving ahead.

The splashpad at Robinson Park is expected to be complete by the end of the year. The contract was awarded in April to TF Harper, and in August, City Council received an update on the \$250,000 project, which is partially funded with a \$125,000 grant from Texas Parks and Wildlife. New fencing for the softball field came in at a cost of \$16,000 under budget, with renovation completed in September.

In downtown, Heritage Square Park renovation is also moving forward, with construction set to begin in November. The \$3.1 million project is expected to take approximately seven months to complete. Funds come from a combination of a Texas Parks and Wildlife grant and Certificates of Obligation bonds.

These projects are being Taylor Made for citizens and visitors alike!

**Isaac Turner**  
Taylor City Manager

## DEVELOPMENT SERVICES RECEIVES \$50K GRANT

The City of Taylor this week was notified it has been awarded for the second year in a row a \$50,000 Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) from the US Department of Agriculture. The funds are earmarked for the Amy Young Barrier Removal Program (AYBRP) in Taylor, a statewide program started in 2010 by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs which benefits Texans with disabilities.

Last year, 35 owner-occupied, single-family households in Taylor received AYBRP grant funds for accessibility modifications and housing rehabilitations. The additional \$50,000 will allow more significant structural and housing systems problems to be corrected in applicants' homes, according to Development Services Director Ashley Lumpkin.

"Taylor was one of only a handful of entities to be awarded \$50,000 through USDA HPG funding in 2016," Lumpkin said. "We are pleased to have been awarded new funds for 2017."

The grant administrator for AYBRP funds, Equity Community Development Corporation, led by Robb Stevenson and Will Gudeman, assisted the city in the grant process.

For more information, contact Lumpkin at 512-365-3863 or email to [ashley.lumpkin@taylor.tx.gov](mailto:ashley.lumpkin@taylor.tx.gov).

## JIM GRAY HIRED AS NEW PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

Last month, Jim Gray, M.A., took over as the new Public Works Director for the City of Taylor. Gray is an experienced administrator with skills in planning, budgeting, personnel management, and compliance with governmental regulations and reporting. He most recently was the Interim City Manager of Jersey Village near Houston where his main focus was the coordination of city and state projects along SH 290.

Gray previously spent nine years as the City Manager of Ingleside, and successfully helped improve the city's bond rating through paying off \$1.8 million of debt ahead of schedule. Other projects included working as grant administrator with Ingleside Local Redevelopment Authority associated with the closing of Naval Station Ingleside.

Serving earlier as the Public Works Director for Alamo Heights/San Antonio, he dealt with revising the Planning and Zoning Code to address the conflict and compatibility between new larger homes and existing homes in neighborhoods. He was also the Public Works Director for the City of Gainesville.

He has a history of community service, including Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club, United Way, and Boys and Girls Club, among others.

Welcome, Jim -- we are happy you have you at the City of Taylor.



# TWO DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES NAMED AS FINALISTS FOR BEST COMMERCIAL INTERIORS

Main Street Manager Deby Lannan reported that the Texas Downtown Association (TDA) has named Curb Side Coffee House and Second Street Farm finalists in its annual President's Award Program. The two businesses were chosen in the under-50,000 population category for Best Commercial Interior. The third finalist is downtown Brenham's Puppy Dawgs and Cat Tails. The first place winner will be named at the annual TDA conference on November 8 at the Awards Gala in McKinney.

Lannan submitted the entries with a variety of photographs that showed the selection committee the special qualities of the businesses that are housed in the McCrory-Timmerman building at Second and Main streets. For more information about downtown opportunities, call Lannan at 512-352-3463.



## TOUCH TAYLOR: FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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## SIGN UP TO RECEIVE EMERGENCY NOTICES

The City of Taylor sends residents information about emergencies via the Capital Area Council of Governments Regional Notification System, called CodeRED. Citizens may sign up to receive alerts by email, phone or text. Register your individual or family contact information online at: [warncentraltexas.org](http://warncentraltexas.org). If already registered, please double-check your information for accuracy or to make changes.



**WaterSmart Tip**  
 Avoid planting grass in areas that are hard to water, such as steep inclines and isolated strips along sidewalks and driveways. Visit [wateruseitwisely.com](http://wateruseitwisely.com) for other ways to conserve and be watersmart!

## UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

### November

#### 4 ARBOR DAY AT MURPHY PARK

As part of the city's commitment to the Tree City USA program, Taylor hosts an annual event and plants 20-30 trees in a city park. Details: [www.taylortx.gov/arborday](http://www.taylortx.gov/arborday)

#### 5 MOODY MUSEUM VETERAN'S PROGRAM

Join us as we honor local veterans from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Speaker is Scott Dean, former US Army and commander of the Taylor American Legion. Details at [www.moodymuseum.com](http://www.moodymuseum.com)

#### 16 THIRD THURSDAY SHOPPING

Shop in Taylor's historic downtown until 9 p.m. for special deals offered by merchants.

#### 23 HAPPY THANKSGIVING DAY!



### HOLIDAY CLOSURES

City offices will be closed on the following days:

**Friday, November 10** | Veterans Day (observed)  
**Thursday, November 23** | Thanksgiving Day\*  
**Friday, November 24** | Thanksgiving Day break\*

\*Trash pickup delayed one day

### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

**Thursday - November 9**

All meetings begin at 6 p.m. and are held at City Hall. Watch meetings live online or taped recordings at [www.taylortx.gov](http://www.taylortx.gov).