

# COMMUNITY CONNECTION NEWSLETTER



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## City Manager Message

Happy Spring, everyone! We're excited to get back to holding many spring events again in the city of Taylor that we had to cancel in the past few years because of the COVID-19 pandemic. I'm excited to see these events back in our city, bringing the

Taylor community back together and also welcoming visitors to our city.

I am pleased to announce that the annual [Blackland Prairie Days](http://www.taylor.tx.gov/958/Taylor-Blackland-Prairie-Days) [http://www.taylor.tx.gov/958/Taylor-Blackland-Prairie-Days] festival is one event that will be back in full force this year! Be sure to gather your friends and family and head to downtown Taylor on Saturday, May 7, for this fun festival presented by the City of Taylor Main Street Program. There will be lots of fun kids' activities, live music, food, and vendors. You don't want to miss it!

We're also honored to resume in-person Memorial Day ceremony this year. Each year we honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in our armed forces. The last two years, we have held the ceremony virtually, and we are looking forward to gathering together in person once more this year. The 2022 ceremony will be held on Monday, May 30, at 10 a.m. at the Murphy Park Liberty Gardens.

I hope everyone has a great spring and I hope to see everyone at these events coming up!

Sincerely,

**Brian LaBorde**  
City Manager



## Citywide Spring Clean Up April 9

The City of Taylor will hold a Citywide Spring Clean Up on Saturday, April 9, to give Taylor residents the opportunity to drop off unwanted items that are otherwise too bulky to dispose of.

Collections will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at two locations, 1200 Welch St. and 1424 N. Main St. (vehicles will enter the Public Works yard at Old Thorndale Road and exit on Main Street).

The City offers the Citywide Clean Up event free of charge once a year in the spring as a service to Taylor residents. Proof of residency, such as a City of Taylor water bill or valid ID showing a City address, will be required.

While most bulky items are accepted, there are exceptions. The following items will **NOT** be accepted:

- Appliances with refrigerant
- Batteries
- Hazardous Materials
- Paint
- Solvents
- Tires
- Waste Oil
- Roofing Shingles
- Concrete
- Uncut brush (all brush must be cut in five-foot sections)

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Public Works Department at 512-352-5818 or visit [www.taylor.tx.gov](http://www.taylor.tx.gov).

## Election Day May 7

The Taylor City Council has passed a resolution R22-03 calling an election to be held in the City of Taylor, Texas on:



### Saturday, May 7, 2022

For the purpose of electing one person from District 1 as a member of the City Council of said city; designating the polling places at which voting shall take place; appointing an early voting clerk and an early voting ballot board; providing for notice of said election.

The race for District 4 seat has been canceled due to lack of opposing candidate(s). Incumbent Robert Garcia was unopposed.

Gerald Anderson and Stan Werner are running for District 1.

***Please note: Polling locations and voting times are subject to change prior to early voting.***

### Early Voting

Polling place locations, dates and times

- Taylor City Hall:
- Friday, April 29, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Saturday, April 30, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Monday, May 2, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 3, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

### Election Day Voting

May 7, 2022

7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

District 1 - Taylor City Hall, 400 Porter St., Taylor, TX

For a complete copy of Resolution R22-01, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 512-352-3676, email our City Clerk, [Dianna McLean](mailto:Dianna.McLean@taylor.tx.gov), or visit the city's [website](http://www.taylor.tx.gov).

**A Message From Your  
Taylor Fire Department**



## **Fire Safety Tips for Spring**

April is a fun time as our weather transitions to Spring and warmer temperatures. Grass and plants start to turn green, and many residents start planting their flower and vegetable gardens. As we begin to spend more time outdoors, please keep these safety tips in mind:

- Have medications readily available for insect bites and stings.
- Keep your health in mind and prepare for the warmer weather by hydrating and drinking plenty of water.
- Remember your safety equipment such as safety glasses and gloves when pruning bushes and shrubs.
- Mulch is not dirt and can catch fire. Never extinguish cigarettes in potted plants or mulch.
- Dispose of waste plant growth (trimmed tree limbs etc.) by bundling in small, manageable bundles (tied together) no larger than 4 feet long and placing at your curb for weekly trash pickup.
- Outdoor burning of waste plant growth is not allowed in the city limits unless your property is 5 acres or larger. 5 acres or larger requires an outdoor burn permit obtained through your Taylor Fire Department.
- Always have a fire extinguisher readily available.

## **Pecan Tree Donated to Parks and Recreation**



The Parks and Recreation Department recently accepted a donation of a Kiowa Pecan Tree from the Williamson County Pecan Growers Association. The tree was planted in Heritage Square Park along Fifth Street. Nolan Werchan spearheaded the donation and planting and the Parks and Recreation employees enjoyed learning about pecan tree maintenance from Mr. Werchan who has decades of experience growing pecans.

## **Finance Department Earns Distinguished Budget Award**

Government Finance Officers Association is pleased to announce that City of Taylor, Texas, has received GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its budget.

The award represents a significant achievement by the entity. It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, the entity had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as:

- a policy document
- a financial plan
- an operations guide
- a communications device

Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories, and in the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award.

When a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is granted to an entity, a Certificate of Recognition for Budget Presentation is also presented to the individual(s) or department designated as being primarily responsible for having achieved the award. This has been presented to Finance Department.

There are over 1,700 participants in the Budget Awards Program. The most recent Budget Award recipients, along with their corresponding budget documents, are posted quarterly on GFOA's website. Award recipients have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America.

*Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) advances excellence in government finance by providing best practices, professional development, resources and practical research for more than 21,000 members and the communities they serve.*



## Save the Date: Blackland Prairie Days Saturday, May 7

It's back! Taylor's annual Blackland Prairie Days will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 7, in historic Downtown Taylor.

This free event honors the rich cultural heritage of Taylor, where local goods and friendly people are in abundance.

We'll have live music, food vendors, booths, kids' activities and more! We also have over two dozen locally owned small businesses in downtown Taylor, so come grab your friends and family and enjoy this annual festival and shop local.

If you're interested in becoming a vendor, contact Main Street Manager Jan Harris at 512-352-3463 or email Main Street Manager [Jan Harris](#). Vendor applications are being accepted through April 25.

More information and sponsorship packets available on our [website](#).

## Upcoming Events Calendar

*To stay up to date on city events, be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter, and check the Community Calendar on the [City's website](http://www.taylor.tx.gov/Calendar) [<http://www.taylor.tx.gov/Calendar>].*

### April

- **Saturday, April 9 | 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.** | *Citywide Spring Clean Up* - The City of Taylor will hold a Citywide Spring Clean Up on Saturday, April 9, to give citizens the opportunity to drop off unwanted items that are otherwise too bulky to dispose of. Collections will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at two locations, 1200 Welch St. and 1424 N. Main St. See article above for a list of restricted items.
- **Saturday, April 23 | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.** | *Plant Swap* - The Taylor Public Library will be holding a Plant Swap hosted by the Friends of the Taylor Public Library. Free for all ages. Bring plants and get plants. All children get a free plant. Swapping begins at 10:30 a.m. Talks will be given by Master Gardeners throughout the day. There will also be informal gardening advice circles.

### May

- **Saturday, May 7 | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.** | *Blackland Prairie Days* - Blackland Prairie Days is back! Because COVID kept us from having our downtown festival for two years, we are more excited than ever to welcome everyone back to beautiful downtown Taylor!
- **Saturday, May 28** - Doris Roznovak Aquatic Center opens for summer!

- **Monday, May 30 | 10 a.m.** | *Memorial Day Program* | Murphy Park Liberty Gardens - Annual ceremony honoring fallen veterans.

## Library Calendar

The [Taylor Public Library](#) is located at 801 Vance St. in Taylor.

### **CURRENT OPERATING HOURS:**

Monday/Wednesday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Tuesday/Thursday 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Friday 12 noon - 6 p.m.

Saturday 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.



### **Story Time:**

- **Wednesday, April 16 at 10:30 a.m.** | *Lois Ehlert*
- **Wednesday, April 13 at 10:30 a.m.** | *Easter*
- **Wednesday, April 20 at 10:30 a.m.** | *Kevin Henkes*
- **Wednesday, April 27 at 10:30 a.m.** | *Bob Shea*

*Library closed Friday, April 15, & Saturday, April 16 (tax assistance still available on Saturday, see below).*

### **Tax Assistance:**

- **Saturday, April 2 at 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.** - Free Tax Assistance with VITA (walk ins only)
- **Wednesday, April 6 at noon - 4 p.m.** - Free Tax Assistance with AARP (make an appointment by [clicking here](#))
- **Saturday, April 9 at 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.** - Free Tax Assistance with VITA (walk ins only)
- **Saturday, April 16 at 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.** - Free Tax Assistance with VITA (walk ins only)

## City Council Meetings

Council meetings are held at 6 p.m. the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at City Hall, 400 Porter Street.(unless otherwise noted)

Council will meet:

- April 14, 28
- May 12, 26


Live streaming of Council meetings and taped recordings are available [on our website](#).

## Holiday Closures

City offices will be closed on the following dates:

- Friday, April 15 (Good Friday)
- Monday, May 30 (Memorial Day)

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