

COMMUNITY CONNECTION NEWSLETTER



January 2023 | In This Edition

- [City Manager Message](#)
- [December Sales, Use Tax See 266.5 Percent Increase](#)
- [Notice of Deadline to File for a Place on the May 6 Ballot](#)
- [Winter Averaging for Wastewater Rates](#)
- [\\$5,000 Donation Given to YMCA for Life-saving Equipment](#)
- [Upcoming Events Calendar](#)
- [Library Calendar](#)
- [City Council Meetings](#)
- [Holiday Closures](#)



City Manager Message

I want to wish all of our residents a happy New Year! We have a lot to look forward to in 2023, including improvements to our downtown area and public spaces, infrastructure updates, and more opportunities to communicate with the public.

Construction on planned downtown improvements began in November of last year and are scheduled to be completed by this Spring. They include include striping for additional parking spaces, updated landscaping, wayfinding signage, and the installation of permanent streetscaping on the Northwest corner of 2nd Street and Main Street. We are excited about the official unveiling on February 4 of the mural on Main Street featuring world champion sprinter and Olympic silver medalist Fred Kerley, a Taylor hometown hero, and we will also celebrate the opening of the Percussion Park Playground at Murphy Park on February 18 that was spearheaded by Good Life Taylor and funded in part by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Local Park Grant Program.

This year residents can expect many updates to our city's infrastructure to help us better handle the growth and development that are already happening in the City. Updates include a new generator for the North Pump Station, a new wastewater lift station at the Taylor Municipal Airport, and a rehabilitation of the city's wastewater treatment plant, in addition to the continuation of our street rehabilitation and maintenance program and drainage improvements. We are also looking forward to the fountain installation at Murphy

Park, new signage for our parks and trails, and improvements to the Murphy Park Pool. All of these upgrades are a part of the Taylor City Council's commitment to ensuring that the City of Taylor has a sound infrastructure and is prepared for the growth that we are experiencing now and will see more of in the future.

I'm excited to announce that the City will continue partner with the Taylor Press by joining Publisher Jason Hennington for his monthly Taylor Talks podcast. Last year several of our executive level staff sat down with Jason to talk about how their departments contribute to City operations, and also provide updates on upcoming projects and events. This year some of those same executive staff members will be featured, and you'll also see some new faces from the Cemetery, Main Street Program and Airport.

Taylor Talk is broadcasted the second Monday of the month on the Taylor Press Facebook page here: www.facebook.com/GoTaylorTx. You can also view past interviews from 2022 on their Facebook page as well. I look forward to continuing to sit down with Jason and keep everyone up to date on all of the exciting things going on in the City!

I hope everyone has a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

Sincerely,
Brian LaBorde
City Manager



December Sales, Use Tax See 266.5 Percent Increase

The City of Taylor has released the actual and cumulative sales tax numbers for the month of December and posted them to the City's website. The sales and use tax revenue reported for the City in December 2022 was \$1,743,702, an increase of \$1,267,991. The cumulative sales and use

tax revenue thus far in 2022 is \$9,809,162, over \$4 million more than the same time in 2021. In November 2022, the City began releasing a report on the third Tuesday of every month detailing the cumulative and actual numbers from the last four months of the year and compare them to the three prior years.

Increased sales tax revenue is a positive for Taylor residents for several reasons. A majority of the revenue in the City's General Fund is made up of ad valorem, or property tax that is charged to residents, and sales and use tax that is charged to anyone who purchases goods and services in the City. When sales and use tax revenues are up, it can help lower the property tax rate. Between the increased construction use taxes from the Samsung Semiconductor construction project, and an influx of visitors and businesses in our City, the City has seen an upward trend in sales and use tax numbers that we expect will continue in the coming years.

The next report will be released on Tuesday, January 17. For more information and to view the report, visit Finance section of the City's website at [by clicking here](#).

Notice of Deadline to File for a Place on the May 6 Ballot

The City of Taylor will hold a general election on May 6, 2023, to elect a Council Member At-Large. The filing period for submitting an application for a place on the ballot for this seat is January 18 through February 17. Residents may contact the City Clerk's office for a candidate packet, or visit the city's website at [City Elections | Taylor, TX - Official Website](#).

Winter Averaging for Wastewater Rates

For residential customers with a City of Taylor utility bill, the City bases monthly wastewater charges on the average water consumption for November, December, January, and February. The three lowest consumptions are then averaged and used to calculate your wastewater charge for the entire year. An account must be active the entire four months to establish an average. All new accounts will be charged the new customer average until the account has established its own winter average.

Prior to the averaging period, residents are advised to repair leaky faucets, running toilets and any other water leaks. This will avoid a high usage month during the averaging period and help keep your sewer rate down. Averages cannot be adjusted for lawn watering or pool filling.

For commercial wastewater customers, charges are based on actual monthly water consumption.

	<u>Wastewater Averaging</u>		<u>Date New Rate</u>
	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>	<u>Appears on Bill</u>
Zone 1	10/17/2022	2/17/2023	4/5/2023
Zone 2	10/24/2022	2/24/2023	4/12/2023
Zone 3	11/1/2022	3/1/2023	4/19/2023
Zone 4	11/9/2022	3/9/2023	4/26/2023

\$5,000 Donation Given to YMCA for Life-saving Equipment

Representatives from the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) presented a check to the YMCA of Central Texas as part of the LCRA's Community Development Partnership Program. The YMCA was presented with a \$5,000 check that will go toward the purchase of life-saving equipment, including automated external defibrillators, for the Doris Roznovak Aquatic Center.

Pictured: Rick Arnic, LCRA Regional Representative; Justin Wirth, Hutto YMCA Aquatics Director; Meg Voelter, LCRA Board Member; Theresa Cirigliano, YMCA Director of Special Events; Kolbi Andresen, Executive Director Hutto Family YMCA; Tyler Bybee, Taylor Parks and Recreation Director; David Stryjewski, YMCA of Central Texas VP of Operations - East Branches; and Betsy Schultz, Taylor Parks and Recreation Superintendent.



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](#).

January

- **January 16 | 9 AM | Martin Luther King Jr. March and Celebration** - The Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day March and Celebration will be held at 9 a.m. on Monday, January 16. Line up for the march begins at 8:45 a.m. at the Dickey-Givens Community Center. A celebration program will begin at 10 a.m. in Heritage Square.
- **January 28 | 11 AM - 3 PM | VITA Tax Assistance Begins** - VITA will be offering tax assistance in the Taylor Public Library Meeting Room starting on Saturday, January 28, and will continue every Saturday until April 15. Hours will be 11 AM - 3 PM.

Library Calendar

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

CURRENT OPERATING HOURS:

Monday/Wednesday 9 AM - 6 PM
Tuesday/Thursday 9 AM - 8 PM
Friday 12 noon - 6 PM
Saturday 11 AM - 4 PM

JANUARY CLOSURES:

- Monday, January 2
- January 17-19 for annual inventory



January Calendar:

- **Wednesday, Jan. 4** | 10:30 AM: *Preschool Story Time - "Hibernation"*
- **Wednesday, Jan. 11** | 10:30 AM: *Preschool Story Time - "Animals"*
- **Wednesday, Jan 18:** No Storytime (closed for inventory)
- **Wednesday, Jan. 25** | 10:30 AM: *Preschool Story Time - "Penguins"*

VITA Tax Assistance will start Saturday, January 28:

- Offered every Saturday in the Library Meeting Room
- Start Date: Saturday - January 28, 2023
- End Date: Saturday - April 15, 2023
- Customer hours: 11:00am - 3:00pm

City Council Meetings

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

Council will meet:

- January 12, 26
- February 9, 23


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

Holiday Closures

City offices will be closed on the following dates:

- Monday, Jan. 2 (New Year's Day Observed)
- Monday, Jan. 16 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)
- Monday, Feb. 20 (Presidents' Day)

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