

# COMMUNITY CONNECTION NEWSLETTER



January 2023



## City Manager Message

This month the City of Taylor will host two very exciting events celebrating new additions to the City of Taylor's public art space: the dedication of the Fred Kerley Mural in the Main Street District, and the official opening of the Percussion Park in Murphy Park. Both events are open to the public, and I hope to see many of our residents there.

First, I am thrilled to announce the official dedication of the Fred Kerley Mural on Saturday, February 4. It's been awesome to watch Taylor artist Adam Davenport working on the mural for the past few months. If you haven't had a chance to check it out, I suggest driving by the Ford Ground Storage Tank at 1601 N. Main St. and hope you can join us as we dedicate the mural to our hometown hero!

Adam has been working on painting the mural since the beginning of November and completed the artwork in January. Mr. Davenport's work can be seen throughout Taylor, including the Bill Picket statue on the corner of Second and Main, the bronze mallard duck statue at the Duck Pond at Taylor High and the buffalo mural that is seen on the side of the building at the 74 Man Store in downtown.

On Saturday, February 18, our Parks and Recreation Department and Good Life Taylor will hold an official ribbon cutting ceremony for Percussion Park located in Murphy Park. If you've recently visited Murphy Park, you may have noticed the construction next to the current playground in the area between the lake and pool. This project began when Good Life Taylor, an organization founded in 2012 to promote healthy families and outdoor activities, brought the concept of the playground to City officials. The idea was to create a vibrant, creative, musical space within the City's parks system where people of all ages and abilities can gather, create music, and enjoy the outdoors.

Construction was recently completed and we're looking forward to its official grand opening! Percussion Park is a unique and innovative addition to our Parks. Construction costs for the park were provided in part from a grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Local Park Grant Program and supplemented by funds raised by Good Life Taylor.

It's exciting to see the City honor important figures in our City's history, bring color and vibrancy to our Main Street, and provide a creative place for children and adults alike to celebrate the creative arts. Both these projects are a testament to the City of Taylor's dedication to enhancing the City's quality of life through art and music, and we look forward to similar projects in the years ahead .

Sincerely,

**Brian LaBorde**

*City Manager*

## **Draft Ordinances Will Be Online for Review February 17**

See how the proposed update to the City's zoning and development standards will impact your property. Find your property on the draft place types zoning map and review development standards. The draft will be online for review until March 3, 2023 at [taylor.konveio.com/share-your-input](http://taylor.konveio.com/share-your-input) [<http://taylor.konveio.com/share-your-input>].

### **Review Past Meetings**

November 2

An open house was held at Taylor Public Library where property owners met with staff and consultants to discuss the proposed place type zoning. See all meeting materials presented: [taylor.konveio.com/share-your-input](http://taylor.konveio.com/share-your-input) [<http://taylor.konveio.com/share-your-input>]

View all past meeting recordings and presentation material:

[taylor.konveio.com/info#paragraphs-item-188](http://taylor.konveio.com/info#paragraphs-item-188)  
[<http://taylor.konveio.com/info#paragraphs-item-188>]

### **Next Steps:**

Final updates are being made to the draft development code for consideration by Planning & Zoning Commission and City Council.

**March 3, 2023** - Submissions or place type zoning requests will close. Requests after March 3rd will follow the standard zoning change process.

**April 2023** - Public hearings at Planning & Zoning Commission and City Council.

**May 2023** - City Council meeting for final plan adoption will be held.

Sign up for project update emails here:

<https://taylor.konveio.com/email-sign>  
[<https://taylor.konveio.com/email-sign>]



## City Continues to See Increase in Sales, Cumulative Tax Numbers in January 2023

The City of Taylor has released the actual and cumulative sales tax numbers for the month of January and posted them to the City's website. The sales and use tax revenue reported for the City in January 2023 was \$1,660,588, an increase of \$1,238,825. The cumulative sales and use tax revenue for October 2022 through January 2023 is \$5,669,708, an increase of \$3,721,480 over the same period 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, February 21. For more information and to view the report, visit Finance section of the City's website [by clicking here \[http://www.taylor.tx.gov/1144/Sales-Tax-Report\]](http://www.taylor.tx.gov/1144/Sales-Tax-Report).



## A Message from the Taylor Fire Dept.

Now that we're done enjoying the holiday season, don't lose sight of your fire safety. The fire prevention theme for this year is "Fire Don't Wait. Plan Your Escape." February is a great time to update your home's fire escape plan and practice, practice, practice.

For more winter season fire safety tips [click link here \[http://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/By-topic/Holidays/Put-a-freeze-on-winter-fires/2020/FreezeWinterFiresInfographic.ashx\]](http://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/By-topic/Holidays/Put-a-freeze-on-winter-fires/2020/FreezeWinterFiresInfographic.ashx).

## 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 \[http://www.ci.taylor.tx.us/251/City-Elections\]](http://www.ci.taylor.tx.us/251/City-Elections).

## 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.

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

## 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>].

### February

- o **February 4** | 10 AM | Fred Kerley Mural Dedication - The community is invited to celebrate the official dedication of the Fred Kerley Mural located at the Ford Ground Storage Tank at 1601 N. Main St. If you plan to attend, please use the Walgreens parking lot located next door to park your vehicle.
- o **February 18** | 10 AM | **Percussion Park Grand Opening** - The community is invited to the official grand opening of Percussion Park located inside Murphy Park, 1600 Veterans Dr.

## Library Calendar

The [Taylor Public Library](http://www.ci.taylor.tx.us/25/Library) [<http://www.ci.taylor.tx.us/25/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

### **FEBRUARY CLOSURES:**

- Monday, February 20

### **February Calendar:**

- **Wednesday, February 1** | 10:30 AM: *Preschool Story Time - "Dance"*
- **Wednesday, February 8** | 10:30 AM: *Preschool Story Time - "Valentine's Day"*
- **Wednesday, February 15:** 10:30 AM: *Preschool Story Time - "Acts of Kindness"*
- **Wednesday, February 22** | 10:30 AM: *Preschool Story Time - "City"*

### **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:

- February 9, 23
- March 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, Feb. 20 (Presidents' Day)

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