

COMMUNITY CONNECTION



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**City of Taylor
City Council**

Rod Hortenstine
Mayor
At Large

Ella Pumphrey Jez
Mayor Pro Tem
District 4

Donald R. Hill
District 1

Christopher Gonzales, Sr.
District 2

John McDonald
District 3

**WHO TO CALL AT
CITY HALL?**

General Information
352-3675

Municipal Court
352-5977

Street Department
352-5818

Water Bills
352-2066

Library
352-3434

Second Street Update

Construction on the long awaited improvements to Second Street will begin in earnest in 2010. Easement acquisition is currently underway by the City. The first public meeting about the project was held December 15 to provide information to property owners, businesses and residents about the improvements to be made. The project includes all of Second Street from just inside the loop on the west side to Main Street on the east.



Second Street looking east.

Phase I of the project consists of replacing old drainage and water pipes as well as adding new drainage features south of Second Street to alleviate existing flooding issues. Phase II includes paving the street and construction of curbs and sidewalks on Second Street. The goal of the project engineer is to keep at least one lane open in both directions for the entire project and to work closely with property owners to identify and resolve

construction issues as they occur.

Construction is expected to begin in early 2010 with completion in 2012. To stay informed on any future meetings or construction notifications, visit the City website: www.taylortx.gov, sign up for the free "Notify Me" subscription service or contact City Inspector Dennis Kleppe at 512-563-6552.

City Readys for Growth

The City Council moved to annex 2,635 acres into the city limits at its December 17, 2009 meeting. This included areas on all sides of the city considered growth corridors or having the potential for growth. Of the 2,635 acres, 1,623 acres were subject to agricultural exemption from being annexed leaving a net increase of 1,012 acres in the size of the City. Agricultural exemptions were received from property owners for 51 parcels of

land. They are exempt from City taxes and are provided in 15-year terms with a maximum of 45 years.

Annexation law allows the City to annex ten percent per year of its land area. The last large annexation for the City was completed in 2006 when it annexed just over 1,111 acres. Over the last three years, the City accumulated annexation rights to expand up to 30 percent.

Councils Applaud Legacy Early College High School

The City Council of Taylor recognized the extraordinary success of the Legacy Early College High School (ECHS) Program of Temple College at its December Council meeting.

Legacy ECHS is designed to provide students the opportunity to earn a high school diploma and up to 64 college hours towards a college degree. Currently, 70 percent of the Legacy students (11th grade) will graduate with an Associate Degree before they graduate from high school. At the end of the 2010 spring semester, Legacy students will have earned 1,566 college credit hours.

Through the generosity of Temple College, tuition and fees for Legacy students are waived resulting in a savings for Hutto and Taylor parents in tuition and fees of \$123,321.

Legacy ECHS serves as a model for rural communities and economic development on a state-wide and national level bringing pride to the communities of Taylor and Hutto. Because of its success, the Texas Department of Agriculture initiated a Request for Proposals of \$500,000 to fund five more rural school districts in their efforts to recreate the Legacy model.

Garbage Rates Increase

Residents will see garbage rates increase by 94 cents that became effective December 1, 2009. The rate increased from \$12.13 which includes both a franchise fee of 10 percent and State sales tax rate of 8.25 percent to \$13.07 a month, a 7.7 percent increase. The new rates will be reflected in the January 2010 billing.

Additional carts will increase to \$4.26 per month. Commercial rates were increased 9.8 percent. For more information, call the Utility Billing office at 352-2066.

Christmas Tree Recycling!

Once again, Keep Taylor Beautiful and the City of Taylor are encouraging citizens to recycle their Christmas trees.

Trees may be dropped off at the former rodeo grounds on Airport Road between ERCOT and the Municipal Airport beginning Saturday, December 26 through Saturday, January 2, 2010.

Please remove all decorations, tinsel, lights, wires, nails and tree stands before dropping off the tree. The trees will be shredded into a mulch and used for landscaping in the City parks and trails.



Martin Luther King Day Community March & Program

January 18, 2010

Starting at Robinson Park
at Walnut Street

March begins at 9 a.m.
to Taylor City Hall, 400 Porter St.
Program upon arrival

**City Offices and
Taylor Public Library
will be closed for
Martin Luther King Day
Monday, January 18, 2010**

NEW!!!

Playaways Now Available Taylor Public Library

Playaways are MP3 players preloaded with certain book titles that will require the user to provide their own earbuds and AAA batteries. This is the newest audio book technology. With a grant from the Texas Book Festival, the Library was able to purchase 45 Playaway titles, mostly popular adult fiction. Try one today!

City Calendar of Events for January

January 5	Zoning Board of Adjustments @ 6pm
January 12	Planning & Zoning Commission @ 6 pm
January 14	City Council meeting @ 6 pm
January 18	Moody Museum Advisory Board @ 5:30 pm
January 19	Parks & Recreation Board @ 6 pm
January 19	Library Board @ 6 pm
January 20	Main Street Advisory Board @ 12 noon
January 26	City Council meeting @ 6 pm
January 28	Airport Advisory Board @ 6:30 pm

Agendas are posted at City Hall and at www.taylortx.gov.

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Published monthly by the City of Taylor and delivered with the utility bill each month. For more information about any story in this issue contact Jean Johnson, Main Street/Communications Manager, at 352-5448 or Susan Brock, City Clerk, at 352-3676.

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