

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER



City Manager Isaac Turner talks with a volunteer during the Taylor Community Cleanup. The next Community Cleanup will be in the spring so mark your calendars now!

With the holiday season fast approaching I want to take this opportunity to wish you happy holidays and a happy New Year! It is a privilege to serve this wonderful community in Taylor and all those who make it great.

There have been numerous achievements this past year for the City as well as some challenges that we continue to dedicate our time and efforts to. With the beginning of 2016 around the corner, I know that there will be many more accomplishments and milestones to boast about as Taylor moves forward toward its goals.

Another important note is our upcoming visioning session with City Council. During this time, the Council and I will discuss goals and the vision for the future of Taylor. This planning session will identify what the future quality of life standards will be in 10, 20 and 30 years from now in Taylor. During the strategic session, Council had identified five priorities for the City's improvement with sub categories ranging from housing and jobs to streets and recreational programs. This session will help Council to envision and conceptualize a holistic approach to Taylor's growth. You should expect to see more on the visioning session very soon.

Best wishes for a blessed holiday season,

-Isaac

## A DAY WITH ANIMAL CONTROL By: Holli Nelson, City of Taylor PIO



On any given day, you may see our Taylor Animal Control Officer out and about serving the community but her job is far from ordinary. Klaasje Helgren has been serving with the Taylor Police Department for a little under a year as the ACO and possesses a love and respect for animals that you would extend to your own pets. I had the privilege of riding along with Klaasje during her shift to get a glimpse into her daily job and the highs and lows that come along with it.

Her normal day begins by checking in at the Taylor Animal Shelter where she visits with the cats and dogs offering loads of hugs and kisses to these animals. Many she has personally picked up off the street or helped to save from a desperate situation. Along with her staff of shelter volunteers, who work tirelessly caring for and seeking homes for the animals, Klaasje ensures the shelter is in the best of conditions for the current animals and any others she may pick up that day.

On this particular day, we had quite a few animals who were in need of veterinary care – either checkups or clearance for adoption – that we would transport to the local veterinarians in Taylor. After our stint of transporting animals from the shelter to the vet and back and making sure they were well taken care of, we were able to begin answering calls that came in from Taylor citizens.

On average, Klaasje receives anywhere from 60-80 service calls a week. The calls on this day ranged from searching for loose animals to wrangling a hog. We drove through neighborhoods on the lookout for loose animals and as we drove around, Klaasje knew many of the animals at local residences by name. We stopped to visit a particular favorite dog of hers in the neighborhood, whom she showered with love and affection, while she checked on the welfare of the owner who is elderly and lives alone. Her services extend far beyond just animal care and take into account the human factor of owning pets.

The afternoon was spent doing follow up calls on cases that had been dealt with previously. Whether it is evidence collection or welfare checks of other animals, the ACO has to be prepared to deal with stressful, sometimes difficult, situations that can be extremely sad. She offered advice to community members who may think they have no where to turn.

"Most citizens don't realize they can come to us for assistance and advice, but we're here to help in any way we can," she stated.

Between the service calls, shelter facility upkeep, volunteer management and follow ups, I had seen more than I could have ever imagined in one shift. I later found out that she had spent the rest of the afternoon and parts of the evening working to help wrangle a loose hog on a service call. When asked what she wished she had more time for, Klaasje responded, "more time with our animals at the shelter who need special training and being able to respond to community concerns." The position of ACO is no easy undertaking but she serves proudly each day supporting the community of Taylor and all the animals in her care.



"There are multiple aspects of being an ACO that are rewarding and give me an amazing reminder of why I'm meant to be here," she said. "Anytime we can save an animal from any unsavory situation is a great feeling, but being able to give that animal a second chance at life and show them what it's like to really live, that's when we know we're doing our part."



## TAYLOR FD HONOR GUARD ACADEMY 2015

The City of Taylor Fire Department hosted their annual Honor Guard Academy from Oct. 17-22 here in Taylor. The class brought in 32 firefighters from across the Central Texas region and beyond to learn the fundamental elements of honor guard duties. The course included instruction on traditions and history of the fire service and honor guard, basic drill movements, flag etiquette, color teams, casket watch and casket movement, among other subjects.



## TAYLOR SEES SPIKE IN SALES TAX REVENUE

Based on a recent report from the Texas Comptroller, Taylor saw a significant spike in sales tax revenue for the month of August. With an 8.67% increase compared to last year, Taylor beat out cities like Round Rock, Georgetown and Florence.

From a growth and economic development perspective for Taylor, a consistent sales tax revenue increase is a healthy indicator for a growing economic base. Here's a snapshot of August's report.

CITY (SALES TAX %)	GROSS SALES	CITY SALES TAX INCOME	YTD REFUND	% CHANGE
TAYLOR (2)	14,611,650	292,233	3,281,595	8.67
GEORGETOWN (2)	77,219,500	1,544,390	16,664,874	1.83
ROUND ROCK (2)	252,544,750	5,050,895	56,777,957	-0.83

## DEVELOPMENT SERVICES UPDATE

This new section of the newsletter will highlight development updates within the City of Taylor. We are committed to growing and developing Taylor for the benefit of the community.

### Certificates of Occupancy Issued

Gatti's Pizza - Opened 10/19/15  
Edward Jones Expansion on 3rd Street  
TEDC Spec Building

### Residential Permits Issued

5 new residential permits  
3 HOME program permits  
8 Total permits through October 2015

## WATER TIP

Use drip irrigation for plants and gardens, and water early in the morning to minimize evaporation.



## UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

### December

**5 MERRY & BRIGHT STROLL ON MAIN**  
The merchants of Downtown Taylor invite you to a Merry & Bright Stroll on Main featuring lots of holiday cheer and fun for the family!

**5 CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**  
The annual Christmas Bazaar will be held at City Hall this year featuring vendors from around the area. Hours are 10-4.

**5 CHRISTMAS PARADE**  
The Christmas parade will begin at 7 p.m. and will also feature the THS Choir singing from 6:15 - 7 p.m. at Heritage Square and Santa on the Square after the parade.

**5 VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS @ THE MOODY**  
The Moody Museum is hosting a Victorian Christmas from 2-4 p.m. All children grades K-4 are invited to the museum to make Christmas ornaments. The museum will be decorated for Christmas and tours will be offered at that time.

### HOLIDAY CLOSURES

City Offices will be closed on the following days:

**Dec. 24-25 - Christmas Holiday**

(Garbage pickup delayed 1 day)

**Jan. 1, 2016 - New Year's Day**

(Garbage pickup delayed 1 day)

### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

**Thursday - December 10**

All meetings begin at 6 p.m. and are held at City Hall.

### FEATURED EVENT

**A MAIN STREET CHRISTMAS**  
The Main Street Program is hosting a Christmas Bazaar at City Hall Dec. 5 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tons of merchants and gifts will be available!

