

A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER



City Manager Isaac Turner along with Asst. City Manager Noel Bernal and Parks Superintendent Mike DeVito joined community members for a tree planting event Nov. 14 in honor of Arbor Day at Taylor Regional Park.

In November, City Council members and I spent two nights in a visioning session with a goal to discuss what the Council wanted Taylor to be 15, 20 or 30 years down the road.

The visioning sessions lasted roughly six hours in total and were guided by Dr. Mike Mowery, a facilitator with Strategic Government Resources. Through the process, Council was able to focus on what the aesthetics, environment and qualities of life would be in Taylor looking forward. Discussions resulted in 12 areas of focus each consisting of 10 to 12 sub categories.

Furthermore, the discussions were narrowed down to three pillars or foundations that the Council wants to focus on and excel in going forward. These include:

- Economic Viability
- Quality of Life
- Transportation/Infrastructure

These pillars help to align and shape the development of the current goals that were outlined last year. As Taylor grows, City staff will work towards the end product outlined in these visioning sessions and pillars to produce excellence in all 12 areas of focus and a better Taylor for all.

-Isaac Turner

2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

This past year has brought many accomplishments to the City of Taylor and has served as a launch pad for the future here. The City continues to seek excellence through innovation, partnerships and strategic planning to ensure Taylor's future outlook is bright.

Here are just a few of the accomplishments received this past year:

Awards & Recognition:

- Finance Department receives 8th award for Excellence in Financial Reporting
- Downtown Master Plan wins Texas APA Project Planning Award
- Tree City USA recipient for 2014 (awarded in 2015)
- Certified Scenic City
- Nationally recognized Main Street
- Certified Film Friendly City
- Employer Support of the Guard & Reserve Patriot Award

Grants:

- Library grant for \$5,800 to restore and digitize local newspapers
- Taylor Police Dept. grant for \$56,455 for electronic ticket writing devices
- Amy Young Barrier Removal Program

Partnerships & Innovation:

- 1st-ever, state of the art LED runway lighting installed at Taylor Airport
- Lightning detection system installed in 6 parks, facilities in Taylor
- 1st-ever Taylor Community Cleanup launched

Capital Improvement Projects (CIP):

- Main St. Hike & Bike Trail - expected construction to begin in March 2016
- Fair Streets Project - All work has been completed
- Jones Burkett - Construction is substantially complete
- Taylor Airport Pavement & Rehab Project - expected completion Winter 2016

BRANSON CHOSEN AS NEW TPD COMMANDER

The Taylor Police Department recently selected Joseph Branson as the next Support Services Commander from a pool of extremely qualified candidates.

Branson has more than 10 years of service with the Taylor Police Department and 16 years of experience in law enforcement. He began his career in the police field in the United States Air Force where he served in security forces from 1999 until 2005. Branson received his Texas Peace Officer license from San Antonio College in 2004 and has been accepted into the Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas starting in 2016. He has served in multiple capacities with the TPD since joining the force in 2005 which included time as a Patrol Officer, Patrol Corporal, Patrol Sergeant, and School Resource Officer.

The support services commander is responsible for overseeing evidence, records, communications, the Criminal Investigation Division, and Animal Control.



APPRECIATION BANQUET HONORS TAYLOR VOLUNTEERS

The City of Taylor held a volunteer appreciation banquet in October to honor those members of the community who dedicate their time and efforts to serving on boards and commissions for the City.

The reception was held at the Taylor Mansion and City Council members, along with Mayor Jesse Ancira, Jr. and City staff, presented each volunteer with a certificate of appreciation and pins for years of service.



CITY LAUNCHES WEBSITE UPDATE, NEW MOBILE APP

In October, the City launched its new and improved website after months of development with Civic Plus. The new site features a mobile responsive design, increased functionality and user-friendly features for an overall improved experience for our customers.

A mobile application is also in development to make accessing information easy with the click of a button on your mobile device or tablet. The mobile app should be available soon.

The City's website can be accessed at www.taylor.tx.gov.



CAR SHOW RAISES OVER \$4K FOR ANIMAL SHELTER

Despite the potential for bad weather, the 3rd annual Main Street Car Show was a huge success again this year and helped to raise more than \$4,000 for the Taylor Animal Shelter through raffles, sponsorship and overall sales.

The goal of the car show fundraiser was to raise funds for a CATTAINER for the animal shelter - a modular design offering expanded housing and exercise space, as well as storage, for cats at the shelter.



DEVELOPMENT SERVICES UPDATE

The Development Services office hired a City Planner, Mr. Nicholas Applewhite, who began working for the City in Dec. The department is still looking for qualified candidates for the position of Deputy Building Official.

Certificates of Occupancy Issued: 8 CO's issued as of Nov. 2015

Permits Issued: 4 New Residential permits issued as of Nov. 2015.

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

January

21 THIRD THURSDAY

The merchants of Downtown Taylor invite you to join them for Third Thursday. Participating shops will be open late for extended shopping.

27 FREE TAX PREP

Beginning Jan. 27 - April 18, free tax preparation will take place for seniors and individuals who earn less than \$54,000/year at the following locations:

Taylor Public Library

Wednesdays 12 - 4 p.m.

Taylor City Hall

Mondays 4:30 - 9 p.m.

Wednesdays 4:30 - 9 p.m.

Saturdays 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Visit wilcofreetaxprep.org or call 512-255-6799 for more info.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

City Offices will be closed on the following days:

Jan. 1, 2016 - New Year's Day

(Garbage pickup delayed 1 day)

January 18, 2016 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

(Regular Garbage Schedule)

Jan. 27-28 - Taylor Public Library Closed

for annual inventory (book drop open for returns)

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Thursdays - January 7 & 21

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

FEATURED EVENT

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY MARCH & PROGRAM

The annual MLK Jr. Day celebration & march will take place on Mon., Jan. 18 at 9 a.m. with a march from Robinson Park to City Hall.

The program begins upon arrival at City Hall.

