

A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER



Mayor Jesse Ancira, Jr. discusses Taylor's accomplishments of the past year with attendees of the Williamson County Growth Summit held in Round Rock in December.

The 18th annual Williamson County Growth Summit was recently held in Round Rock and Taylor Mayor Jesse Ancira, Jr. had the opportunity to serve as a panelist and discuss the achievements, trends and future needs of our city along side other leaders from the county.

The question of what the biggest threat for the continued economic growth of Williamson County is was given to the panelists who all drew a consensus that community buy-in was a large concern for them and their cities.

Workforce, proximity, collaboration, water and space availability all topped the list of most important aspects a city needed to possess as selling points for development. Current needs of each community also circled the list of development selection criteria as some cities possessed more or less of each of the factors outlined.

The Mayor remarked on Taylor's abundant water supply, extremely marketable Legacy high school program that continues to develop a great workforce for the future, our proximity to Austin and our space availability. He also noted that we would still like to see more speculative space available and are committed to working with Hutto on the mega site development through collaborative efforts to achieve common goals.

This year's growth summit brought together more than 450 attendees focused on Williamson County's rapidly expanding growth and we were pleased to have been included in this very important discussion.

-Isaac Turner

DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN UPDATE

The Taylor Downtown Master Plan was developed with the help of the community and Design Workshop throughout 2014 and 2015 and was formally adopted by City Council in April 2015. This award winning plan is set to chart the next 10 to 20 years of redevelopment in Taylor's historic Downtown area.

While the plan outlines key catalyst projects to revitalize the area, this year the City of Taylor will be focusing on implementing portions of the plan in the following areas:

Heritage Square improvements –

There are many facets that will go into the improvement of Heritage Square through the implementation of a design package. The design process will be phased and will require public input.



Wayfinding Signs -

City staff are looking at ways to utilize wayfinding signs to publicize public parking availability in the Downtown area as well as promoting the locations of other City markers.

Street improvements – \$1.2 Million has been set aside for road improvements in the Downtown area.

Gateway Features – Staff are looking at options for updating and implementing new signage at the four entrances to Taylor.

Skate Park - The Taylor City Council has expressed their support for moving forward with the skate park project on 1st Street, east of the Highway 95 bridge, as the south anchor for the realization of the award-winning downtown master plan.

PETERSON JOINS CITY AS NEW HR DIRECTOR



Kim Peterson joined the City of Taylor staff as the new Human Resources and Civil Service Director in Dec. She has more than 10 years of experience in the human resources field, specifically with municipal and government organizations.

"I look forward to getting to know Taylor and supporting the goals and vision of the Council to help attract and retain great people to serve the Taylor community," said Peterson.

Kim earned her Master of Science degree in community and regional planning from the University of Texas and her Bachelor's degree through the honors program at UT also. She is a member of the Williamson County Human Resources Association and a former mediator for the Texas Intergovernmental Shared Neutrals Program.

TAYLOR NNO WINS STATE, NATIONAL AWARDS

For the eight year in a row, the Taylor Police Department has received state and national recognition for their National Night Out program.

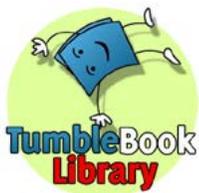
This year, the TPD placed 7th in the state of Texas and 29th nationwide for a population size of 15,000-50,000 citizens.

The NNO post-project award recognizes 12 categories of NNO programs throughout the nation for their participation and organization of NNO parties.

This past October, the TPD hosted their NNO on Oct. 6 and featured 16 different block parties throughout Taylor focused on bringing together communities and police departments.



TAYLOR LIBRARY RECEIVES TUMBLEBOOKS GIFT



The City of Taylor Public Library was recently gifted a two year subscription to TumbleBooks that directly benefits all library card holders within Taylor thanks to a gift from the Taylor Library Foundation.

TumbleBooks is a collection of digital children's books that are interactive and

can be read on a computer, tablet or mobile device with internet connection. They promote reading and language skill development through interactive content, including some games, designed for children. The books range from fiction to non-fiction and features some videos and Spanish language materials.

Any person with a valid Taylor Public Library card can access TumbleBooks by going to the Library's catalog page and logging into their library account. Additionally, all students in the Taylor ISD are eligible for a free Library card and will have access to this service.

KISHA SMITH RECEIVES CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD



Representatives from the Greater Taylor Chamber of Commerce presented Utility Billing representative Kisha Smith with the customer service award on Dec. 17, 2015.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES UPDATE

The department is still looking for qualified candidates for the position of Deputy Building Official.

As of Dec. 2015

Certificates of Occupancy: 5 | Residential Permits: 2

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

February

11 MOODY MUSEUM VICTORIAN VALENTINE GALA

Join the friends of the Moody Museum for their annual fundraising gala. Tickets are \$25 each and support the Moody Museum. Event will be from 4-8 p.m.

27 FREE TAX PREP

Beginning Jan. 27 - April 18, free tax preparation will take place for seniors and individuals who earn less that \$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:
Feb. 15, 2016 - President's Day
(Regular Garbage Schedule)

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Thursdays - February 11 & 25
All meetings begin at 6 p.m. and are held at City Hall.

FEATURED EVENT

MOODY MUSEUM VICTORIAN VALENTINE GALA

Help support the Moody Museum by attending this year's annual gala. Tickets are \$25 each. The event will take place from 4-8 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 11, 2016.

