

A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER



Mayor Jesse Ancira, Jr. speaks during Blackland Prairie Days at the grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for the Texas Beer Company in Downtown Taylor.

The City of Taylor staff, in conjunction with the Greater Taylor Chamber of Commerce, will once again be hosting a LEAD (Leading, Exploring, Advancing and Developing) Taylor course. This course, formerly known as Taylor 101, is designed to inform citizens on City government processes and management as well as build community partners and develop leadership tools for those involved.

LEAD Taylor is designed to run for multiple weeks in an effort to allow participants an in depth experience into how the City functions as a whole. The 5 hour classes will take place once a month at the Taylor Public Library.

There are a multitude of benefits to this course including gaining a better understanding of our local government, honing leadership skills for on and off the job and experiencing community service. The ultimate goal of LEAD Taylor is to cultivate community leaders through shared experiences and enhanced understanding of how our community works together.

More information on sign-ups, cost and class schedules will be in next month's Community Connection and on our website.

I know this will be a successful venture for the City, Chamber and community at large.

-Isaac Turner

CITY COUNCIL WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

At a special City Council meeting held May 17, the results from the May 7 municipal election were canvassed and new council members Christine Lopez, District 1, and Robert Garcia, District 4, were sworn in. Each member will serve a three year term on the Council.

Lopez received 53% of the vote in her district with 75 votes to 60 and 5 respectively from opponents Herbert Brinkmeyer and Arnold Cuba. Garcia received 57% of the votes in his district with 176 to opponent Scott Green's 132.

During the same meeting, Jesse Ancira, Jr. was re-elected as Mayor of Taylor and Brandt Rydell was elected as Mayor Pro Tem.

At the conclusion of that meeting, a special reception was held for Mr. Don Hill, former City Council member in District 1, who served the City of Taylor for more than 30 years.



TAYLOR PD RECEIVES 'SMART' EQUIPMENT

The Taylor Police Department has a new "tool" that will help in identifying traffic problems in neighborhoods and promote education and compliance with the posted speed limits. The Speed Monitoring Awareness Radar Trailer (SMART) is a device specially designed to accurately measure and record speed that visibly displays a motorists speed on a LED display.

The unit is capable of conducting a speed study to determine if the reports of speeding at a specific location are actually vehicles being operated in excess of the speed limit or are perceived speeding. The objective of the equipment is to educate drivers on the posted speed limit and make the driver aware of their actual speed.

The SMART trailer records data to include the number of vehicles passing by its location, the time of day, and the high and low speeds. The trailer also calculates the average speed of all passing vehicles. All of this information is then downloaded on an easy to read report which includes graphical displays. If the report indicates that there is repetitive excessive speed at a specific location, then the Taylor Police Department will follow-up with directed traffic enforcement efforts at the time of day the violations are occurring.

The Taylor Police SMART program is provided as a service to the community.

If you are experiencing a speeding problem in your neighborhood, please contact the Police Dept. at 512-352-5551 Your request will be forwarded to the SMART Trailer Coordinator, Sgt. Anthony Morehouse, for follow up.



CITY AWARDED \$50,000 FROM USDA FOR AMY YOUNG

The City-Wide and Taylor Community Cleanups were both huge successes this go around thanks to the generous work of many volunteers, City workers, and enhanced partnerships with businesses and civic organizations in the community. The City-Wide cleanup serviced more than 300 vehicles resulting in 135 tons of garbage. The community cleanup serviced the areas of 1st, 2nd, Royal & Tennessee Avenues and removed over 26 tons of garbage and more than 150 tires. Thank you to all who participated!



ANIMAL SHELTER RECEIVES GRANT FOR NEW KENNELS

The Taylor Animal Shelter has been awarded a \$12,000 grant from the National Humane Society of the United States to purchase new indoor kennels. The kennels will replace aging infrastructure inside the animal shelter and provide new, safe living quarters for the animals residing in the shelter.

The \$12,000 grant will cover the costs for the new kennels and the tear down and installation work to be performed.

"We are extremely grateful to the National Humane Society for the generous funding of the grant that will go directly to where help is needed most at the shelter," said Commander Joseph Branson, Taylor Police Department support services commander who oversees Animal Control and the Animal Shelter. "The impact this will have on the well-being of the animals being cared for here is wonderful and greatly influences the quality of life for these shelter pets, who we hope only have a short stay with us."

CITY MAINTAINS AA- BOND RATING FROM S&P

Standard & Poor's (S&P) Global Ratings have affirmed an AA- bond rating for the City of Taylor's general obligation bonds and views the outlook for the City's rating as stable. The AA- rating is consistent with the last rating the City received in 2013.

Standard & Poor's stable rating reflects an assessment of, "Taylor's very strong budgetary flexibility, supported by maintenance of high reserves and strong management as well as our expectation of Taylor's continued participation in the Austin-Round Rock MSA's broad and diverse economy."

The City of Taylor's refunding of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2016, resulted in a savings of \$1.3 million. Since 2010, the City has saved more than \$2.1 million through refinancing debt while maintaining a stable bond rating.

To view the entire report, please visit www.taylor.tx.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6945

MAYOR ANCIRA SERVES AS PANELIST AT TEXAS LEADERSHIP FORUM

Mayor Ancira represented the City of Taylor recently at the Texas Leadership Forum held in Austin May 19th. He was one of three participants in a plenary session on leadership and management in the municipal government sector.

The panel focused on discussions of incorporating technology and innovation into municipal government, leadership strategies for success and how to address urgent challenges in government.



UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

June

25 MOODY MUSEUM POUNDING

Join the Moody Museum from 10 a.m. - Noon for the annual pounding benefitting the Sheperd's Heart Food Pantry. Cake and lemonade will be served and tours will be available. The business that brings in the most pounds will win a small trophy.

July

4 INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

The annual Fourth of July celebration will take place in Murphy Park with a fireworks show starting at dusk. The event is free and open to the public.



21 THIRD THURSDAY SHOPPING & MOVIES IN THE PARK

Peruse Downtown Taylor for local Taylor Made treasures in the shopping district where



stores are open late until 8 p.m.

Summer movies in the park will be showing Aladdin beginning at dusk in Heritage Square. Bring a lawn chair or blanket for seating.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

City offices will be closed on the following day(s):

July 4, 2016 - Independence Day

Normal garbage schedule

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Thursdays - July 21 & 28

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