

A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER



The new skate park downtown at Porter and Third streets is nearing completion.



The splashpad at Robinson Park will be open for summer fun.



Construction has begun on the renovation of Heritage Square Park, due to open later this year.

I am happy to report that much progress is being made on outdoor recreation projects. They will be enjoyable spots for children and adults as these new amenities are completed. Texas Parks & Wildlife grants funded a significant portion of these projects.

Isaac Turner
Taylor City Manager

REGISTER TO VOTE - EARLY VOTING STARTS APRIL 23

Four candidates are running for two City Council seats

It's an election year, and a number of local races have been underway for County Primary races since February. Right around the corner is the City of Taylor City Council election, set for Saturday, May 5. Early Voting for City Council begins on Monday, April 23 and continues through Tuesday, May 1.

City Council Candidates

This year there are two Single Member District City Council seats up for a vote, from among the four districts and At-Large representation. District 2 and District 3 residents will choose from two candidates vying for a seat in each. Council terms are three years and staggered, with elections held in May. The Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem are elected every year from within the Council members themselves and serve a one-year term in those roles.

In District 2, incumbent Council Member Christopher Gonzales will face opponent Mitchell Drummond, whose application for a position on the ballot states he has lived in Texas for 59 years and in District 2 for nine years.

Mr. Gonzales has also lived in District 2 for nine years, and in Texas for 37 years. He was first elected to Taylor City Council in May 2009. He was reelected to City Council in 2012 and 2015.

On the ballot for the seat in District 3 are current Mayor Brandt Rydell and resident Gary Gola. Mr. Rydell was elected Mayor by the other Council members in May 2017, and has served on City Council since May 2012. He was reelected in 2015, and the Taylor native has resided continuously in District 3 for the past 11 years.

Mr. Gola has lived in Texas for 54 years and in District 3 for 29 years, according to his application for a place on the ballot.

Taylor is a Home Rule city, which means that Council can enact legislation, adopt budgets and determine policies, subject only to limitations imposed by the State Constitution and the City of Taylor Charter.

Register

The deadline to register to vote in Early Voting is 30 days in advance, which is March 24. To vote on Election Day, a person must be registered by April 6, 2018. Voters are required to show only one of seven forms of acceptable identification to be given a ballot. Those include:

- Texas Driver License issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety
- Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS
- Texas Personal Identification Card issued by DPS
- Texas Handgun License issued by DPS
- US Military Identification Card containing the person's photograph
- United States Citizenship Certificate containing the person's photograph
- United States Passport (book or card)

TAYLOR RECEIVES TREE CITY USA DESIGNATION

The City of Taylor has been notified by Texas A&M Forest Service that it again meets the standards for designation as a Tree City USA, a program of the Arbor Day Foundation. It is the sixth year in a row for the award.

The Tree City USA Program began in 1976 and provides the framework necessary for communities to manage and expand the quantity of public trees in a city. More than 3,400 communities across the country have made the commitment to become a Tree City USA.

The requirements for the designation include having a community tree ordinance (Sec. 28-31), maintain a Tree Board or department, spend at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry and celebrate Arbor Day. The City of Taylor holds an Arbor Day tree planting and ceremony each year in November.

Protected trees in Taylor are Pecan, American Elm, Cedar Elm, Texas Ash, Southern Magnolia, Cottonwood, all varieties of Oak, and all varieties of Maple with the exception of Boxelder Maple and Silver Maple.

Texas A&M Forest Service regional foresters conduct the Tree City USA certifications locally for the Arbor Day Foundation.



HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR EMERGENCY NOTICES?

The City of Taylor sends residents information about emergencies via the Capital Area Council of Governments Regional Notification System, called CodeRED. Citizens may sign up to receive alerts by email, phone or text. Register your individual or family contact information online at: warncentraltexas.org. If already registered, please double-check your information for accuracy or to make changes.



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APRIL UTILITY BILLS WILL REFLECT WINTER AVERAGING

Water usage during December through February is averaged to determine the Waste Water rates for residents for the rest of the year. The April bill will reflect any rate changes, based on the averaging. Billing is as follows:

- Zone 1: Billing of April 5, 2018
- Zone 2: Billing of April 12, 2018
- Zone 3: Billing of April 19, 2018
- Zone 4: Billing of April 26, 2018

Please call 512-352-2066 with any questions about utility bills.

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

March

7 TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE AT LIBRARY

Free weekly tax preparation assistance continues at the Taylor Public Library from **noon to 4 p.m.** for those persons with household incomes less than \$54,000 per year or who are senior citizens. Held each Wednesday through April 11. Also held at City Hall on Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. *A service of United Way of Williamson County.*

15 TRUCK PETTING ZOO AT THE LIBRARY

Head to Taylor Public Library from **2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.** to climb aboard and explore the ins and outs of city vehicles - including a fire truck! 801 Vance St.

15 THIRD THURSDAY SHOPPING NIGHT

Head to Historic Main Street where the downtown merchants are open late, offering special sales. Everyone is invited!

16 VIRTUAL REALITY LAB

From **3 p.m. to 4 p.m.** at Taylor Public Library. Explore places you've never been!

31 EASTER EGG HUNT

Fun for the kids! Murphy Park, 1600 Veterans Dr., 10 a.m. until eggs are gone!

HOLIDAY CLOSURE

City offices will be closed on the following day:
Friday, March 30 | Good Friday
(Normal trash collection, no delays)

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Thursday - March 8 & 22 | April 12 & 26
All meetings begin at 6 p.m. and are held at City Hall. Watch meetings live online or taped recordings at www.taylor.tx.gov.