

A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER



A skateboarder enjoys the newly opened Pierce Park.

The City of Taylor has a lot to be proud of, but I think that our parks are definitely among the top attractions for our City. This month Taylor residents and visitors can enjoy two additional parks in the City, both of which were opened to the public last month: Heritage Square and Pierce Park.

Heritage Square serves as a homage to our rich cultural history. The newly renovated Heritage Square incorporates elements approved as part of the City's Downtown Master Plan adopted in 2015. Elements include an amphitheater, a spray park, public art display, shade structures and landscaping to enhance the area.

Pierce Park is our newest addition to the Parks and Recreation roster. The land for Pierce Park was generously donated by Chisum Pierce to honor the legacy of his late father, Lieutenant Commander Thomas Floyd Pierce. In addition to the grant from Texas Parks and Wildlife, Pierce Park was also paid for with a grassroots fundraising effort by young people in the City of Taylor. The project, dubbed "50/50" was guided by Project LOOP, a Taylor-based nonprofit that recruits creative professionals to teach young adults about careers in the creative arts.

We will be having an official grand opening and dedication of each of the new parks in the coming months.

JEFFERY JENKINS
Interim City Manager

CITY BIDS FAREWELL TO LONG-TIME EMPLOYEES

This spring the City of Taylor will bid farewell to two long-time employees who have both contributed to the City's growth and development over the past 15 years. Fire Chief Pat Ekiss and Finance Director Rosemarie Dennis both announced their retirements in the fall of 2018. Ms. Dennis will retire on March 31, 2019. Chief Ekiss announced his retirement effective March 31, 2019, but will stay on through April at the City's request to assist with orientation of a new Fire Chief.

Chief Ekiss has managed and directed the administration and operations of the City of Taylor Fire Department since 2010.

"We have been so fortunate to have Chief Ekiss in charge when we have had emergency situations in our City. He knows how to manage an emergency and he keeps everyone calm with his leadership skills and command abilities," Interim City Manager Jeff Jenkins said, "He has been invaluable in shaping the Taylor Fire Department into a first-class emergency response unit. He also understands the history and significance of fire prevention, and the policies he has put into place have made our City stronger and safer. We are grateful for his leadership, and we are a better City for having had him on board."

Rosemarie Dennis is the Finance Director for the City. Ms. Dennis has served two terms with the City of Taylor: she served as an Accountant for the City from August, 2004 – January, 2006, then came back as the Director of Finance in September, 2006.

Mr. Jenkins said that Ms. Dennis has contributed to the City's financial strength. "She makes sure that our i's are dotted and our t's are crossed, and ensures that our finances are up to date and transparent for the public. She has worked very hard for the City and we have always been able to count on her to make sure that we are being fiscally responsible. We will miss her leadership and guidance."



CITYWIDE SPRING CLEAN UP APRIL 13

The City of Taylor will once again host a citywide Spring Clean Up on April 13. Collections will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at two locations, 1200 Welch St. and 1424 N. Main St.

The citywide clean up gives Taylor citizens the opportunity to drop off unwanted items including trash, debris and bulky pieces. This service is free of charge to Taylor residents and proof of residency, such as a City of Taylor water bill or valid ID, will be required.

There are a few items that the City cannot accept. These include:

- Appliances with refrigerant
- Batteries
- Chemicals
- Hazardous materials
- Paint, solvents
- Tires
- Waste oil
- Roofing shingles
- Concrete

If you have any questions or concerns, or would like to volunteer, please contact City Hall at 512-352-3675 or visit www.taylortx.gov.