

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

JULY 2021

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GUEST COLUMN: PARKS AND REC

Summer time is here and July is also Parks and Recreation Month. To help kick off the month, the Council will issue a proclamation at the July 8 regular City Council meeting. We encourage everyone to come celebrate Parks and Recreation Month this month by visiting one of the many parks the City has to offer!

The City of Taylor is fortunate to have such an expansive parks system. We have some exciting new developments coming to our parks. You may have noticed construction in Fannie Robinson Park. Recently, construction began on the installation of new restrooms in Fannie Robinson Park. The restroom project is part of the one of the Valero Quality of Life projects. In October 2017, Valero agreed to provide the City with \$500,000 for one or more quality of life projects. Projects approved by Valero and Council were the addition of restrooms at Robinson Park as well as the installation of lights at the Robinson Park basketball courts and the Pierce Park Skate Park.

Also, the City has been working on updates to the Parks Master Plan. On October 24, 2019, the City Council approved a professional services agreement with Halff Associates for Taylor Community Parks Master Plans, O&M Plan and Parkland Dedication Assessment. Input was gathered from Council, City staff, the Parks Board, Taylor residents and key stakeholders. Open houses were held in early 2020 and an online survey was used to gather public feedback. The final master plan was presented to the Parks Board in January 2021. The plan concentrates on improvements to Bull Branch Park & Trail, Murphy Park and Fannie Robinson Park.

I'm thrilled to see the changes and improvements come our Parks. Exciting things are happening here in Taylor and I'm proud to be part of it!

Tyler Bybee
Parks and Recreation Director

RESIDENTS INVITED TO TURN VISION INTO ACTION

Final Comprehensive Planning Workshop to be Held in Person July 14

The City of Taylor will host a final workshop to solicit input from the public on the final phase of the City's new comprehensive plan on Tuesday, July 14, at 6 p.m. at the Taylor Public Library. All residents are welcome to participate. Additional information about the planning process is available under Community & Events on the City's website, taylortx.gov.

The public workshop is the final phase of the comprehensive planning process that began in the fall of 2020 with a series of webinars and workshops designed to gather public input for the City's comprehensive plan, a policy document used by city leaders, developers, business owners, and residents to make decisions about how cities should grow and develop in the future. Lionheart Places, LLC, an urban design, planning and landscape architecture firm has facilitated the development of the City's new comprehensive plan over the past year, along with consultants from Verdunity, a planning and engineering firm focused on developing fiscally sustainable plans. The new plan, called "Envision Taylor," has been an opportunity for the community to help shape the future of Taylor.

While all of the Envision Taylor workshops to this point were held virtually because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the July meeting will be in person. In this workshop, facilitators will review the results of the planning process and discuss strategies for implementing the plan that has been developed over the past year. Speakers and facilitators will include welcoming remarks from Mayor Brandt Rydell, and presentations and



Miss the meeting?

View a recording of the July 14 meeting at taylortx.konveio.com

discussions led by discussions led by Rebecca Leonard and Abby Gillfillan, Planners with Lionheart Places, LLC and Kevin Shepherd, Founder and CEO of Verdunity. City of Taylor Assistant City Manager and Development Services Director Tom Yantis will facilitate the meeting and offer introductions.

Mr. Yantis said it is important for residents to participate in this final workshop because they will have the opportunity to actually put the comprehensive plan into action.

"We have spent the past year discussing the community's vision for the future of Taylor, and this meeting will be our opportunity to develop strategies for making that vision a reality. I'm really looking forward to seeing the great ideas our residents will bring to this meeting," Mr. Yantis Said.

For information about the July meeting and Envision Taylor, please call Development Services at 512-365-3863. Information is also available on the Community and Events section on the City's website, www.taylortx.gov.



ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR UTILITY BILLS

If you are having financial difficulty and need assistance in paying your utility bill, we ask that you contact the Utility Billing department at 512-352-2066 to discuss your options to make or keep your account current. We may be able to offer you additional time to pay your water bill by granting an extension. Also, please reference the contact information below for nonprofit organizations that may have available funds to assist you.

Salvation Army

114 W. 6th Street
Taylor, TX 76574
512.943.8421

salvationarmyaustin.org/
taylorservice-unit/

Shepherd's Heart

121 E. 2nd Street

Taylor, TX 76574

512.352.5553

www.shepherdshearttaylor.org/

St. Vincent De Paul

209 N. Main Street
Taylor, TX 76574

512.352.2453

www.facebook.com/svdptaylor/

REMINDER: FIREWORKS NOT ALLOWED IN CITY LIMITS

We would like to remind residents that fireworks are prohibited in the city limits of Taylor and 5,000 feet outside city limits (per Ordinance 2009-14).

It is illegal to sell, be in possession of, and/or discharge fireworks in Taylor unless for public exhibition with a permit.

To view the ordinance, visit www.taylor.tx.gov.

FIGHT THE BITE

We're reminding residents to help Fight the Bite by:

- Using an EPA-approved insect repellent
- Dressing in long sleeves and pants when outdoors, especially during dusk and dawn
- Drain any standing water in flower pots, pet dishes, or clogged cutters to mosquitoes don't have a place to breed and treat water that can't be drained.

CREDIT CARD, IVR FEES REINSTATED

The Utility Billing Department will be reinstating the \$3 credit card processing fee and the \$1.25 IVR fee (Automated Phone Line System) starting July 6. The fees were waived during the COVID-19 pandemic as a courtesy to our utility customers. If you have any questions, please contact the Utility Billing department at 512-352-2066.

TAYLOR PUBLIC LIBRARY

July 6 - 10 a.m. Outdoor Storytime - Pandas

July 7 - 10 a.m. Musician Will Parker

July 8 - Family Activity

July 13 - 10 a.m. Outdoor Storytime - Dogs

July 14 - 10 a.m. Storyteller Toni Simmons

July 15 - Family Activity

July 20 - 10 a.m. Outdoor Storytime - Chickens

July 21 - 10 a.m. Digeridoo Down Under

July 22 - Family Activity

July 30 - Awards and Ice Cream Party



KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

BE THE FIRST TO KNOW!

SIGN UP FOR ALERTS FROM CAPCOG AND THE CITY OF TAYLOR

- 1. DEFEND**
USE AN EPA-APPROVED INSECT REPELLENT
- 2. DRESS**
DRESS IN LONG SLEEVES AND PANTS WHEN OUTDOORS
- 3. DRAIN**
DRAIN STANDING WATER AROUND YOUR HOME TO PREVENT MOSQUITOES FROM BREEDING

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

6 p.m. Thursday:

July 8, 22

August 12, 26

Watch meetings live online or taped recordings at www.taylor.tx.gov.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

City offices will be closed on:
Monday, July 5
(Independence Day Observed)