



TAYLOR TODAY

AUGUST 2026

VOL. 14 NO. 4



The 2026 Junior League World Series

Pitcher Lee Lin (10) was all smiles going through the celebratory tunnel on the way to another Chinese Taipei title last year. Who is going to take down the Asia-Pacific juggernaut this summer?



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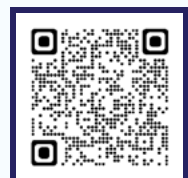
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Courtney

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TAYLOR TODAY is a product of Community Publishing & Marketing for the residents and businesses of Taylor. Community Publishing & Marketing cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information presented within these pages or be held accountable for omissions or errors. Please report any changes to info@communitypublishing.com for inclusion in subsequent editions.



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From MAYOR WOOLLEY

"NOT here."

That was the message sent out by Taylor Police earlier this summer. Teen takeovers that have plagued our country. These takeovers are large gatherings of teens in public places, such as parks, shopping centers or elsewhere, that are typically organized through social media.

They often become an excuse to create chaos, block traffic, damage property, fight or engage in some other criminal activity.

Our police department used the time leading up to the 2026 Taylor Summer Festival to send a message to parents and teens in the community that such demonstrations would not be tolerated in Taylor. The message was crystal clear:

"Let's save everyone some time: Taylor is not the place for (teen takeovers). If you participate in a takeover, street takeover, pop-up party or whatever social media is calling it this week, don't be surprised when your night ends with a ride in a police car and a stay in our jail instead of a ride home with your friends."

We all want to see our children enjoy their summer. We want to see them have fun with their friends. But there must be a balance here. Given the advent of social media, posts that go viral can draw thousands to one gathering – and that often means trouble.

During summer festival weekend, which was June 25-28, there were concerns throughout the area about these types of "takeovers" and unruliness during large events. Chances are that those concerns are going to last all summer and probably well into the fall.

But even if some teens get the message, there is a bigger question that adults must answer: Are we parenting correctly? As the police stated in another portion of their message, "hanging out with friends and enjoying the summer equals no problem. Taking over streets, parking lots, parks, business and neighborhoods and committing crimes is a big problem."

Have you had that conversation with your sons and daughters yet? If you haven't, you should, because it all starts with us parents doing our jobs.



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(MI). There you will find shows like *From the Mayor's Desk* and *Taylor NewsBreak*; series highlighting veterans, first responders and elected officials; election information; and popular events throughout the community. These programs are also scheduled daily the government access cable channels of Comcast (Channel 12) and Wow (Channel 10).

City of Taylor Officials



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VICTORIA SHACKELFORD
District Court Judge



BRITTANY JOHNSON
District Court Judge



CITY OF TAYLOR

Important telephone numbers

City Hall General Number

(734) 287-6550

This number connects to the staff at the Customer Service Center, which has access to all municipal building departments along with public works and the animal shelter. Select click-through options include City Clerk, DPW, City Council secretary, police and fire non-emergency and district court

23rd District Court (general)

(734) 374-1334

Civil Division

(734) 274-1328

Probation Department

(734) 374-1326

23rd District Court (Fax)

(734) 374-1303

General Employees Retirement System Pension Office

(734) 288-6780

Compost and Transfer Station

(734) 287-6550

Fire Department non-emergency

(734) 374-1355

Police Department non-emergency

(734) 287-6611

Taylor Golf

(734) 287-2100

This number serves both the Lakes of Taylor and Taylor Meadows

Sportsplex and Taylor Recreation Center

(734) 374-8900

Heritage Park Petting Farm

(734) 374-5946

William Ford Senior Activities Center

(313) 291-7740

Taylor Community Library

(734) 287-4840

Other telephone numbers

Taylor Dance

(734) 374-3904

Taylor Conservatory & Botanical Gardens

(888) 383-4108

Taylor School District (central office)

(734) 374-1200

Wayne County Community College District

Downriver Campus

(734) 946-3500

City, Village, and Township Revenue Sharing (CVTRS) Accountability and Transparency Reports can be found and viewed on the City's website at <http://www.cityoftaylor.com/dashboard>



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AROUND Taylor

September – October

PLEASE NOTE: Fall classes at the William Ford Senior Activities Center begin this month. Registration will begin in August.

SEPTEMBER

September 7

Labor Day

(City Hall closed)

September 7

NW Pool and Heritage Park Splash Pad close

INFO: Northwest Park Pool and Heritage Park Splash Pad season end.

September 8

First Day of School Taylor School District

September 8

Jukebox Bingo

Noon-2

William Ford Senior Activities Center
6750 Troy

INFO: \$5 for Taylor residents; \$8 for non-residents. Pre-registration is required.

September 11

Law Enforcement Softball Game: Taylor Police vs. Michigan State Police

6:30 p.m.

Rotary Park

12111 Telegraph Road

INFO: Goodies and games. Bragging rights are on the line between the Michigan State Police and the Taylor Police.

September 12-13

Wild Weekend

Heritage Park Petting Farm

12803 Pardee

INFO: Tickets are \$5 per person

(1-and-under free). Visit with exotic

animal plus over 100 farm animals.

Runs from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. each day.

Click on cityoftaylor.com for more information.

September 18

Night Golf Tournament

Taylor Meadows Golf Course

25360 Ecorse Road

INFO: Registration opens September

1. Call (734) 287-2100 for more

information.

September 19

Free Shred Day

City Hall

23555 Goddard Road

INFO: Presented by City Clerk Cindy

Bower and the Rotary Club of Taylor.

Free to residents with ID. Runs 10

a.m. to 1 p.m. (you must be in line by 12:45).

September 20

Annual Tea in the Gardens

Taylor Conservatory & Botanical
Gardens

22314 Northline Road

INFO: Join in the cherished tradition.

Enjoy an elegant afternoon

surrounded by blooming gardens,

complete with tea service, light fare

and delightful company. This timeless

event blends beauty, relaxation and

community in one of Taylor's most

enchanting settings.

September 22

September Senior Dance

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

William Ford Senior Activities Center

6750 Troy Street

INFO: Music and light refreshments.

Call (313) 291-7740 for details.

September 26

Downriver Region Relay for Life

Heritage Park

12111 Pardee Road

10 a.m.-10 p.m.

INFO: A Downriver wide fund-raiser to

battle cancer. For more information,

or to register online, visit RelayForLife.org/DownriverTaylor and be sure to

follow at facebook.com/DownriverRelayForLife.

September 26-27

Train Rides

Heritage Park Petting Farm

12803 Pardee Road

INFO: Weekends in the fall experience

a rotating array of events such as Pony

Rides, Miniature Train Rides, Boo Barn

and more! Runs 11 a.m.-4 p.m. each

day. Tickets are \$5 per person (1-and-

under free). Click on cityoftaylor.com

for more information.

September 26-27

Annual Fall Plant Sale

Taylor Conservatory & Botanical
Gardens

22314 Northline Road

INFO: Find a curated selection of hardy perennial favorites and not-so-common varieties—all lovingly nurtured by our amazing volunteers.

Fall is the perfect time to plant perennials so they can establish roots before winter and burst into color next spring.

September 29

Seniors Monthly Birthday Bash & Karaoke

Noon-2

William Ford Senior Activities Center

6750 Troy

INFO: Karaoke and cake.

OCTOBER

October 3

League Appreciation Tournament

Lakes of Taylor

25505 Northline Road

INFO: Annual outing focusing on leagues. Call (734) 287-2100 for more information as the event nears.

October 3

Sixth Annual Scarecrow Stroll & Witches Bonfire

Taylor Conservatory & Botanical
Gardens

22314 Northline Road

INFO: The Scarecrow Stroll & Witches

Bonfire returns with a reimagined

focus on family fun. Join in from 2-6

p.m. to vote for your favorite

scarecrow, explore the expanded

haunted trail, visit the pumpkin

patch, enjoy witch performances and

create keepsakes in the kids' craft

tent. Experience all-new family

activities replacing the vendor

market, then stay for a movie at 6

p.m. to end the day with a cozy

evening under the stars.

October 4

18th Annual Metro Detroit Share Walk for Remembrance and Hope

Heritage Park
12111 Pardee Road
INFO: Begins at 11:30 a.m. In memory of pregnancy and infant loss. For more information visit www.metrodetroitshare.org or email info@metrodetroitshare.org.

October 5-6

Senior Appreciation Golf Tournament

Taylor Meadows
25360 Ecorse Road
INFO: Annual outing focusing on senior golfers. Call (734) 287-2100 for more information as the event nears.

October 10-11

Pony Rides

Heritage Park Petting Farm
12803 Pardee Road
INFO: Weekends in the fall experience a rotating array of events such as cider and donuts with Pony Rides, Miniature Train Rides, Boo Barn and more! Tickets are \$5 per person (1-and-under free). Click on cityoftaylor.com for more information.

October 11

Superintendent's Revenge Golf Tournament

Lakes of Taylor and Taylor Meadows
INFO: Registration opens September 1. Call (734) 287-2100 for more information.

October 12

Indigenous Peoples' Day

(23rd District Court closed)

October 13

Jukebox Bingo

Noon-2
William Ford Senior Activities Center
6750 Troy
INFO: \$5 for Taylor residents; \$8 for non-residents. Pre-registration is required.

October 15

Wave of Light for Child Remembrance Loss

Heritage Park
12111 Pardee Road
INFO: Remembering the loss of a child (any age). Begins at 6 p.m. For more information visit www.metrodetroitshare.org or email info@metrodetroitshare.org.

October 17-18

Boo Barn

Heritage Park Petting Farm
12803 Pardee Road
INFO: Halloween-themed family fun at the farm from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Cider and donuts, treats for the kids, pumpkin pie patch and visit with classic Halloween characters Tickets are \$5 per person (1-and-under free). Click on cityoftaylor.com for more information.

October 22

Seniors Halloween Party

Noon-3
William Ford Senior Activities Center
6750 Troy Street
INFO: A live band and a catered meal. Call (313) 291-7740 for details.

October 22

Taylor Business Alliance meeting

6-7:30 p.m.
Lakes of Taylor Banquet facility
25505 Northline
INFO: Speaker to-be-announced. Reserve a spot at by emailing taylorbusinessalliance@gmail.com

October 23

Hallow-Palooza

Heritage Park
12111 Pardee Road
INFO: The City's annual safe Halloween event held at Heritage Park. Enjoy a scenic stroll around Coan Lake while collecting candy. Don't forget to head down to the Sheridan Pavilion for games, crafts, pumpkin carving, a movie and your favorite characters. Free for Taylor resident children and \$5 per non-resident child (accompanying adults are free). Registration required; no tickets sold at the gate.

October 25

Chili Open

Taylor Meadows Golf Course
25360 Ecorse Road
INFO: The annual autumn two-person scramble is back again. Chili included with tickets. Reservations required. Call (734) 287-2100 for more information as the event nears.



October 24-November 2

November General Election Early In-Person Voting

City Hall
23555 Goddard
INFO: All early in-person voting for the November 3 General Election will be held in City Hall, October 24-November 2. Polls starting Saturday, October 24 and running through Saturday, October 31 will be open 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays and from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Mondays-Fridays. The final day, Monday, November 2, voting will be held from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. If you have questions, call (734) 287-6550 Option 6.

October 27

Seniors Monthly Birthday Bash

Noon-2
William Ford Senior Activities Center
6750 Troy
INFO: Karaoke and cake.

October 29

Senior M-MSU Tailgate (tentative)

William Ford Senior Activities Center
6750 Troy Street
INFO: Enjoy the build up to the annual Michigan-Michigan State football game by getting together with friends. Sponsored and hosted by the City's elected officials, tickets are \$2 per resident and \$3 for non-residents. Food, refreshments and activities.



October 31

Halloween

Official trick-or-treating hours are 5 p.m.-8 p.m. If you are handing out candy, please leave your front porch lights on. Children and families should note which houses have lights on, and visit and/or skip homes accordingly.

For more information on City news and events, always log on www.cityoftaylor.com.



Western Wayne Family Health Centers

Healthcare that Cares By Pamela MacIntyre

WHEN it comes to healthcare, finding a provider you trust can make all the difference. At Western Wayne Family Health Centers, the mission is simple: provide compassionate, comprehensive care while making quality healthcare accessible to every member of the community.

With locations in Inkster, Taylor, Dearborn and Lincoln Park, Western Wayne Family Health Centers offers convenient access to care throughout Downriver and western Wayne County. Since opening its first location in Inkster in 2006, celebrating its 20th anniversary, the organization has continued to grow to meet the healthcare needs of local families.

As a community health center, Western Wayne Family Health Centers provides care regardless of a patient's insurance status, offering a sliding fee scale for those without coverage. Most insurance plans are accepted, including Medicaid. Community health workers help connect individuals with community resources when needed.

One of Western Wayne Family Health Centers' greatest strengths is its comprehensive approach to healthcare. Patients can receive primary medical care, pediatric services, women's health, dental care, behavioral health services, pharmacy support, and more—all in the same place.

"We want to be your first choice in healthcare," said Clinical Supervisor Astria Whitlow. "We provide care throughout every stage of life—from pregnancy and infancy through adulthood."

Preventive care and education are also important parts of the organization's mission. Western Wayne Family Health Centers offers programs that help uninsured women receive cervical and breast cancer screenings, and works to ensure patients have access to the services they need before small health concerns become larger ones.

That commitment extends well beyond the clinic walls. Throughout the year, staff members participate in health fairs and visit schools and churches and community centers for events.

Community outreach continues with special events designed to promote wellness in a welcoming environment. On August 8, the Taylor location will host a community health fair featuring health information, and fun for families.

Each October, the Inkster location hosts its annual women's health event, offering cervical cancer screenings, transportation for mammograms, educational activities, and wellness resources for patients.

"We do our best to make sure our patients know we are here to support them through everything!" said Taylor's Office Manager Tanya Roberson.

Inside each health center, however, it's the personal

connections that staff members believe make the greatest impact. Employees say compassion is at the heart of everything they do. They understand that patients often arrive worried or simply not feeling their best, and they believe treating people with kindness and respect is just as important as providing quality medical care.

Staff members emphasize taking the time to listen, answer questions and help patients feel valued throughout their experience. Their goal is to create a welcoming experience from the moment patients check in until they leave the office.

That commitment is reflected in the feedback the organization receives. Patients frequently comment on attentive staff,

providers who take the time to answer questions and thoughtful follow-up calls that help them feel supported even after their appointment.

The same philosophy guides the workplace culture. Employees describe Western Wayne Family Health Centers as a family where coworkers support one another, celebrate each other's successes and work together with mutual respect. That positive environment carries over into the care patients receive every day.

As the organization looks toward the future, Western Wayne Family Health Centers remains committed to expanding access to care while continuing to provide the compassionate, patient-centered experience that has become its hallmark.

Western Wayne Family Health Centers' Taylor location is at 26650 Eureka Road, Ste. C, Taylor, MI 48180. For more information visit <https://wwfhc.org/> or call (313) 561-5100.



Clinical Supervisor Astria Whitlow (left) and Officer Manager Tanya Roberson (right).

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Discipline, depth drive Chinese Taipei streak

Asia-Pacific Regional Championships
have won the last four tournaments

As we move into the 44th Annual Junior League World Series (August 9-16) at Heritage Park, it pays to learn a little history before trying to take a bite out of the present.

It doesn't take long to recognize how Chinese Taipei has won the last four Junior League World Series championships. Or 10 of the last 11 titles. Discipline and depth are two of the major ingredients to the dominance that the Asia-Pacific Regional Champions have possessed and all you must do is look at last year's statistics.

Last August, Chung-Shan Junior Little League represented Chinese Taipei in the JLWS and won all five of its games to capture the overall world championship. During those five games, the team posted a collective batting average of .341 during a tournament in which no other team posted a batting average over .300 and five teams batted under .200. Nine of their 13-player roster hit over .300 – three finished with a .500 or better batting average.

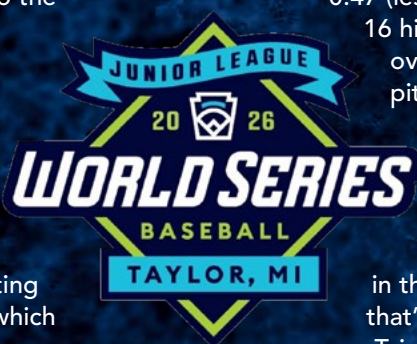
Thanks to all those hits, Chinese Taipei averaged over 10 runs per game. Their 42 runs batted in were over twice as many as any other team in the tournament.

Many fans might come away thinking that Chinese Taipei is some type of steamroller, but they are more like a giant octopus. Once they get their tentacles around you, they strangle the fight right out of you. Why? Because they do much more than just hit the baseball.

On the mound, Chinese Taipei pitchers threw 30 innings and registered a collective earned run average of 0.47 (less than one run per game), allowing only 16 hits and two earned runs and five walks overall. Six of the team's 13-player roster pitched in the tournament. Over the five-game tournament, Taiwan's top two pitchers (Yeh Lei and Liao Cheng En) pitched just over 16 innings and gave up a single run.

Chinese Taipei handled 132 chances in the field and committed just two errors – that's not a typo.

Taiwan's 11 overall titles – all since 2010 – double their next-closest challengers in all-time JLWS crowns. Teams from Puerto Rico (last title in 1999), Florida (2012) and Southern California (2019) have each captured five championships. Other squads claiming multiple JLWS titles include Hawaii (four), Texas (3) and Arizona (2).





Aside from Chinese Taipei's dominance, play in last year's tournament was very balanced. Vine-Ingle Little League out of Macon, Georgia, the Southeast Regional Champion, used a first-round bye and then solid wins over the Michigan District 5 from Taylor North LL; Naamans LL of Wilmington, Delaware, representing the East Regional; and finally, a one-run win over the Southwest Regional title winner from Needville LL of Needville, Texas, to qualify for the finals.

Needville was the perfect example of the tightness of play throughout the tournament. The team lost its first game and then reeled off three straight wins before losing in the U.S. Championship Game by a late run.

Baseball continued on page 15

Remembering Greg Bzura

Former JLWS director was the impetus behind creating the annual tournament

Greg Bzura — a man who served as the director of the Junior League Baseball World Series for its first 40 years — passed away at 88 years old on January 26.

He was a founder of the Junior League World Series for top teams of 13- and 14-year-olds from around the globe. He also served as volunteer director of the international tournament for the first 40 years.

An athlete in his youth, Mr. Bzura got involved in Taylor Little League after he and wife Judy had three sons, Phil, Kenn and Dan, and they wanted to play sports. He met Sam Pizzo, who urged Bzura to join the board at the Taylor South Little League, which had been founded by Pizzo in 1961 at what would become Taylor's Heritage Park. Bzura and Pizzo began a friendship that spanned six decades and would include their wives and children.

Pizzo remembers the significance of his friend's involvement at the Taylor Little League complex. He said Mr. Bzura helped start the Sunday bingo fundraisers that contributed to the early days of the league and helped obtain the 4.6 acres of park space needed to play baseball and softball.

Together, the two men attended the baseball congress together, celebrated at league bonfires, enjoyed Super Bowl parties and had many meals together. Pizzo said the first Little League team Bzura coached was called the Phillies, named for his son Phil. The long-time friends were even teammates on some fun men's softball teams together.

"We couldn't win any games, but everybody wanted to play on our team," Pizzo said.

Together, Bzura and Pizzo appealed to Little League International to make Taylor the home of the first home of the then-13-Year-Old World Series — the "big brother" of the Little League World Series for 12-year-olds held annually in Pennsylvania.

That first series, including four American teams, was held at Taylor South in 1981. The first title was won by a team from Boardman, Ohio, which shut out Richard, Virginia, 4-0.

Over the next four decades, the event would grow to include 13- and 14-year-olds, expand to 12 Junior League teams from all over the world and be played at an impressive complex known as the Sam Pizzo Fields at Heritage Park. The Junior League World Series has never been played anywhere but in Taylor.

While the first JLWS was played by four American teams, the current tournament now features a dozen regions from the U.S. and around the globe. Half of the teams play in the United States bracket — the Central, East, Southeast, Southwest and West regions, along with the champion of Michigan's District 5, which acts as the host team.

The International bracket now consists of regional winners from Asia-Pacific, Australia, Canada, Europe-Africa, Latin America and Mexico.

As the event gained fame and hosted players who would go on to major league careers, then-Governor Jennifer Granholm called Taylor the "Little League capital of Michigan."

Upon Mr. Bzura's retirement as World Series director in 2022, Little League International President and CEO Stephen D. Keener attended the World Series and oversaw the passing of the director's role from Greg to his son Dan, a lifetime JLWS volunteer.

Mr. Bzura never sought fame, but along the way was inducted into sports halls of fame in both Taylor and his hometown of Wyandotte. The City of Taylor recognized his importance by naming Greg Bzura Parkway in his honor in Heritage Park, home of the JLWS.

While Mr. Bzura's name will always be synonymous with the JLWS, he always credited the hundreds of volunteers that came together every August to help make unforgettable experiences for the players, coaches, umpires and spectators.

"I've always said no one is bigger than the program," Mr. Bzura said. "It's about all of us — all the guys who joined forces to make it happen and the thousands of volunteers who have kept it going. Now, young people need to take it and move it forward. I have a lifetime of good memories and good friends. I thank everyone that has volunteered over the years."

Family meant everything to Greg. He and Judy were married for 43 years before she passed away in 2002. They are survived by their sons Phil, Ken and Dan (Cori); grandchildren Matthew Bzura, Lindsey Brithinee (Jake) and Samantha Magyar (Chris); great grandchildren Beau Brithinee, Wyatt and Griffin Magyar; and a sister, Stephanie Stonebruner. Greg is preceded in death by six siblings: Irene Nareski, Mary Butifant, Joe Bzura, Ed Bzura, Tony Bzura and Rose Tysowski.



EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW

about the Junior League World Series



Big names in JLWS history

Several current or past professional baseball players played for teams in the Junior League World Series before making it as stars in the big leagues. The newest include Hao-Yu Lee of the Detroit Tigers and Antwone Kelley of the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Lee played in the 2017 Junior League World Series for Chinese Taipei and visited Comerica Park while he was here, predicting that he would someday "be on the field instead of the stands." The Tigers promoted him from Triple A Toledo earlier this year and he's been a part-time contributor at second and third base. At the time, he was the 19th player from Taiwan to make it to the major leagues.

Kelly played for Aruba in the 2018 JLWS. Just 22, Kelly has risen rapidly through the Pittsburgh minor league organization. The hard throwing pitcher got the Pirates' attention in 2025, when he started 25 games for South Atlantic League Greensboro and Eastern League Altoona. Across those two leagues, he registered a 3-3 record over 107.1 innings, striking out 116.



Others who have played in the JLWS include Gary Sheffield, Eric Bedard, Brett Myers, brothers Jose and Javier Valentin, Erubiel Durazo, Chad Hermansen, Derek Bell, Delino DeShields, Shannon Withem, Adam Loewen and Chris Brock.

Sheffield and Bell were teammates on the Belmont Heights team from Tampa, Florida, that won the Junior League world championship in 1982. Sheffield has narrowly missed making the Baseball Hall of Fame and finished his MLB career with 509 home runs, nearly 2,700 hits, over 1,600 RBI and a .292 career batting average.

Other future stars to play in Taylor have included Chris Dingman and Steve Reinprecht, teammates in 1989 with Edmonton, Alberta, who went on to play in the National Hockey League. Matt Cassel (Northridge, California, 1995) was a quarterback in the National Football League. Mark "Bo" Pelini, a member of the

1981 champions from Boardman, Ohio, went on to play safety for Ohio State University's football team and coached football at the University of Nebraska. Other football stars ranged from Andy Mignery (Hamilton, Ohio, 1994), former tight end at Michigan, to the legendary Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (Tyler, Texas, 2010).

Chinese Taipei dominates

The Asia-Pacific regional champions, Chinese Taipei, has turned out the dominant JLWS teams since 2010, winning twice as many titles overall than any of the other program. Chung-Shan Junior Little League's title in 2025 made it four in a row for teams from Chinese Taipei and 10 of the last 11 titles (exempting the COVID postponements in 2020-21 and a 2019 championship run by Golden Hill Little League of Fullerton, California).

How things got started

In 1939, Little League was only available for players who were 12 years old and younger. By 1961, Little League was expanded to include 13-, 14- and 15-year-olds. This new division was called Senior League. In 1968, Little League again expanded to include 16-, 17- and 18-year-olds. This was called Big League.

In 1979, recognizing the significant adjustment experienced by 13-year-olds when faced with bigger field dimensions – plus the disadvantage they faced against older players – Little League created the Junior League division for 13-year-olds.

Two years later, the late Greg Bzura and a group of baseball enthusiasts from Taylor volunteered their community as the host site for the first Junior League World Series. At that time, the championship was called the "13-year-old World Series." The event has been staged in Taylor ever since. Bzura, a retired banker and former councilman, continued as World Series director for four decades, eventually giving away to his son, Dan.

The first champion: Boardman, Ohio

In 1981, the first year of the Junior League World Series, only the four regional championship teams from the United States made the journey to Taylor. Boardman, Ohio, won the first world championship, beating teams from Richmond, Virginia; Gloucester County, New Jersey;

and Bassett, California. Since Boardman's world title, no other Central Region champion has won the World Series.

The Little League Miracle

In 1988, tragedy struck just 93 days prior to the series when the original press box and dugout building were destroyed by a fire. What occurred after that has been called a "Little League Miracle."

Volunteers came forward with time, energy and talent. Thousands of dollars in donations came from local corporations, district administrators, World Series alumni umpires and Little Leaguers everywhere. The City of Taylor donated architectural, legal and guidance services. After 64 days of planning, raising money and installing sewers, there were just 29 days to rise from the ashes. With the players arriving for the eighth annual World Series, the backstop was installed and the next day, the series started on schedule.

Older players and expansion

In 1999, two major changes took place. For the first time, the Junior League expanded to include older players, 14-year-olds. The expansion led to the first-time participation in the World Series by a team from the Far East region, Guam, and would allow for more nations to compete in regional tournaments worldwide. That Far East region would eventually expand and be renamed the Asia-Pacific region.

Latin America, Europe thrive

Prior to 2001, only two Latin America nations – Mexico and Puerto Rico – were interested in competing for the Junior League title and, rather than hold a Latin America tournament, national champions from both countries were invited to Taylor.

In 2001, Latin America for the first time held a regional tournament in Freeport, Grand Bahamas, which attracted eight nations: Mexico, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Aruba, Panama, Curacao, Bahamas and The Virgin Islands. Venezuela defeated Mexico for the Latin American regional championship.

Worldwide growth continued in 2001. Fourteen teams competed for the European regional championship. Poland headed to Taylor as the European champ, defeating Germany in the title game. In the regional, there were two teams from Germany (an American military base and a native team) and individual teams from Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Italy, Lithuania, Russia, Belgium, The Netherlands, Romania, Saudi Arabia and Spain.

The 2001 World Series marked the first time a team from South America played in Taylor – and Maracaibo, Venezuela, made it to the finals. That year also marked the debut for teams from Poland and Spain.

Making history back-to-back

Aiea, Hawaii, also made history in 2001, becoming the first team to win back-to-back world championships in the Junior League. In 2001, Aiea defeated Venezuela, 6-5, in a thrilling, come-from-behind contest that was won in the bottom of the eighth inning. The year before, Aiea defeated Langley, British Columbia, Canada, in the finals, 2-1. Hawaiian teams have won the world title four times.

Facility upgrades

Just prior to the 2002 Series, the area surrounding World Series Field received elaborate beautification, including brick pavers, knee walls, wrought iron fencing with gated entries and extensive landscaping. The beautification continued in the summer of 2003. A Memorial Garden was planted, paying tribute to World Series volunteers who had passed away: Judy Bzura, Bob Sands, Richard Anderson, Ginger Anderson, Chuck McAllister and Toby Sullivan. Opening ceremonies included a moment of silence. Other great volunteers have been added to the garden since. Last year, World Series Field added a beautiful new electronic scoreboard in right-center field.

Umpires and volunteers

The umpires of the series meet challenging qualifications to be selected for the Junior League World Series. An umpire cannot participate until umpiring in state and regional championships. Umpires have come from 33 states, Aruba, Belgium, Canada, Curacao, Germany, Guam, Lithuania, Mexico, Netherlands, Panama, Poland, Puerto Rico, Romania, Spain, Turkey, Venezuela and the Virgin Islands.

Overall, a team of more than 200 volunteers takes on various roles to make the Junior League World Series a success. The World Series has been a family event, as Taylor residents and others in the area help chaperone players and serve as "aunts and uncles."

For 19 years, local families housed visiting players. In the years since, they have stayed at the headquarters hotel. All the volunteers do an outstanding job. They have fun but are very serious about their responsibilities.

The host team makes a difference

To balance the USA and International brackets and bring even more excitement to the JLWS, Little League International created the "host team" format in 2018, handing the Michigan District 5 champion an automatic berth in the Series. It's really taken hold, as Taylor North Little League won the USA Bracket title in back-to-back seasons. Having a local team in the tournament has created tremendous local interest and much larger than usual crowds.

In 2023, 10 of the 11 players that led Taylor North to the Little League World Series title in 2021 were on the JLWS roster: Chauncey Adkins, Noah Boren, Lucas Farner, Jacob Farkas, Max Laforest, Jaxon Shufeldt, Jackson Surma, Cameron Thorning, Gavin Ulin and Ethan VanBelle. In the USA title game, Laforest's sacrifice fly ball scored Surma with the walk-off winner, 3-2, over Irma, South Carolina. The win gave Taylor its first berth in the JLWS final.

The following summer, a team made up of made up of Jaxon Shufeldt, Kole Boike, Lucas Doute, Chase Omodio, Lucas Brewer, Cruz Rodriguez, Richard Loruiaux, Griffin Krakow, Alex Miller, Brodii Hollobough, Tristan Spencer and Mino Koski made a similar run. Koski provided much of the pitching behind the team's success and shortstop Lucas Doute consistently provided key hits batting .636 at the highest-level world series tournaments.



Baseball continued from page 13

So, what's up this year?

The opening ceremony (free admission) will take place at the JLWS World Series Field in Heritage Park. It will begin at approximately 8 p.m. on Saturday, August 8 and include a parade featuring all the teams.

The USA Bracket will be made up of American teams from the Central, East, Southeast, Southwest, West and the Michigan District 5 champion. The International Bracket will consist of Asia-Pacific, Australia, Canada, Europe-Africa, Latin America and Mexico.

Qualifying as of this writing for the JLWS are the Eastern Phantoms (Australian Regional); Emilia Romagna LL of Italy (Europe-Africa Regional); Matamoros (Mexico Regional); and Shing-Ming LL, Taoyuan, Chinese Taipei (Asia-Pacific Region).

Opening games on Sunday, August 9 are:

- US Central-US Southeast, 10 a.m.
- Canada-Mexico, 1 p.m.
- US East-Michigan District 5, 4 p.m.
- Europe-Africa-Australia, 7 p.m.

Four teams drew first-round byes and will start the tournament on Monday, August 10. In the International Bracket, Asia-Pacific will play the winner of Canada and Mexico and Latin America will play the winner of Europe-Africa and Australia. On the US side, US West will play the Central-Southeast winner, and US Southwest will play the East-Michigan District 5 winner.

Fans should note that the starting times for all games have been moved by an hour this year, beginning at 10 a.m. and 1, 4 and 7 p.m. beginning Sunday, August 9 and running through Wednesday, August 12. There will be elimination games on Thursday, August 13 at 5 and 8 p.m.

After an off day on Friday, August 14, the International Championship will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, August 15 with the USA Championship at 6.



Baseball continued on page 17



2026 Junior League Baseball World Series Schedule

All Games at World Series Field in the Taylor North Little League Complex at Heritage Park, 12111 Pardee Road.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

Opening Ceremonies and Fireworks 8 p.m. Free Admission.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9 – OPENING DAY OF GAMES

G1 USA Central vs. USA Southeast, 10 a.m.

G2 Canada vs. Mexico, 1 p.m.

G3 USA East vs. Michigan District 5, 4 p.m.

G4 Europe-Africa vs. Australia, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, AUGUST 10

5 Asia-Pacific (bye) vs. Winner of Game 2, 10 a.m.

6 USA West (bye) vs. Winner of Game 1, 1 p.m.

7 Latin America (bye) vs. Winner of Game 4, 4 p.m.

8 USA Southwest (bye) vs. Winner of Game 3, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11

9 Loser of Game 2 vs. Loser of Game 7, 10 a.m.

10 Loser of Game 6 vs. Loser of Game 3, 1 p.m.

11 Loser of Game 5 vs. Loser of Game 4, 4 p.m.

12 Loser of Game 1 vs. Loser of Game 8, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12

13 Winner of Game 9 vs. Winner of Game 11, 10 a.m.

14 Winner of Game 10 vs. Winner of Game 12, 1 p.m.

15 Winner of Game 5 vs. Winner of Game 7, 4 p.m.

16 Winner of Game 8 vs. Winner of Game 6, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

17 Loser of Game 15 vs. Winner of Game 13, 5 p.m.

18 Loser of Game 16 vs. Winner of Game 14, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14 – Open day

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

19 International Championship Game:

Winner of Game 15 vs. Winner of Game 17, 3 p.m.

20 USA Championship Game: Winner of Game 16 vs. Winner of Game 18, 6 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

21 Junior League Baseball World Series Championship Game,
International Champion vs. USA Champion, Noon

MORE INFORMATION

Admission is \$5 per carload of people per day or \$15 for a week's pass. Tickets are sold upon entry to Heritage Park. Fees include parking and game admission.

For up-to-date results, "how to watch on ESPN+", JLWS highlights and much more, visit the all-new Junior League Baseball World Series website through www.cityoftaylor.com/worldseries. Follow JLWS on Facebook and Instagram.

(NOTE: Crossover consolation games are scheduled as needed during the tournament.)



PAST CHAMPIONS OF THE JUNIOR LEAGUE WORLD SERIES

- 2025 Chung-Shan Junior Little League, Taichung, Chinese Taipei
- 2024 Shing-Ming Junior Little League, Taoyuan City, Chinese Taipei
- 2023 Tao-Yuan Junior Little League, Taoyuan, Chinese Taipei
- 2022 Chung Shan Junior Little League, Chinese Taipei
- 2021 Canceled
- 2020 Canceled
- 2019 Golden Hill Little League, Fullerton, California
- 2018 Shing-Ming Junior Little League, Taoyuan, Chinese Taipei
- 2017 Shing-Ming Junior Little League, Taoyuan, Chinese Taipei
- 2016 Shing-Ming Junior Little League, Taoyuan, Chinese Taipei
- 2015 Chung-Shan Junior High, Tai Chung, Chinese Taipei
- 2014 Chung-Shan Junior High, Tai Chung, Chinese Taipei
- 2013 Chin Ming Junior Little League, Taipei City, Chinese Taipei
- 2012 Rockledge, Florida
- 2011 Palma Ceia/Bayshore Little League, Tampa, Florida
- 2010 Chung-Ching Junior Little League, Taipei City, Chinese Taipei
- 2009 Mountain View Little League, Scottsdale, Arizona
- 2008 Pabao Little League, Willemstad, Curacao, Netherlands Antilles
- 2007 Pearl City Little League, Pearl City, Hawaii
- 2006 El Campo, Texas
- 2005 Panama City, Panama
- 2004 Tampa, Florida
- 2003 LaMirada, California
- 2002 Cartersville, Georgia
- 2001 Aiea, Hawaii
- 2000 Aiea, Hawaii
- 1999 Hermanos Cruz, Arroyo, Puerto Rico
- 1998 South Mission Viejo, Mission Viejo, California
- 1997 Salem Youth, Salem, New Hampshire
- 1996 Northwest 45, Spring, Texas
- 1995 South Lake Charles, Lake Charles, Louisiana
- 1994 Thousand Oaks, Thousand Oaks, California
- 1993 Roberto Rivera Miranda, Cayey, Puerto Rico
- 1992 Sunnyside, Tucson, Arizona
- 1991 Northwest 45, Spring, Texas
- 1990 Juan Antonio Bibiloni, Yabucoa, Puerto Rico
- 1989 Jose Maria Rodriguez, Manati, Puerto Rico
- 1988 Ligas Pequeñas, Mexicali, Mexico
- 1987 West Rowland Heights, Rowland Heights, California
- 1986 Waldorf, Waldorf, Maryland
- 1985 Tampa Bay, Tampa, Florida
- 1984 Pearl City, Pearl City, Hawaii
- 1983 Jose Maria Rodriguez, Manati, Puerto Rico
- 1982 Belmont Heights, Tampa, Florida
- 1981 Boardman, Boardman, Ohio

Baseball continued from page 15

The JLWS Championship Game will begin at noon on Sunday, August 16.

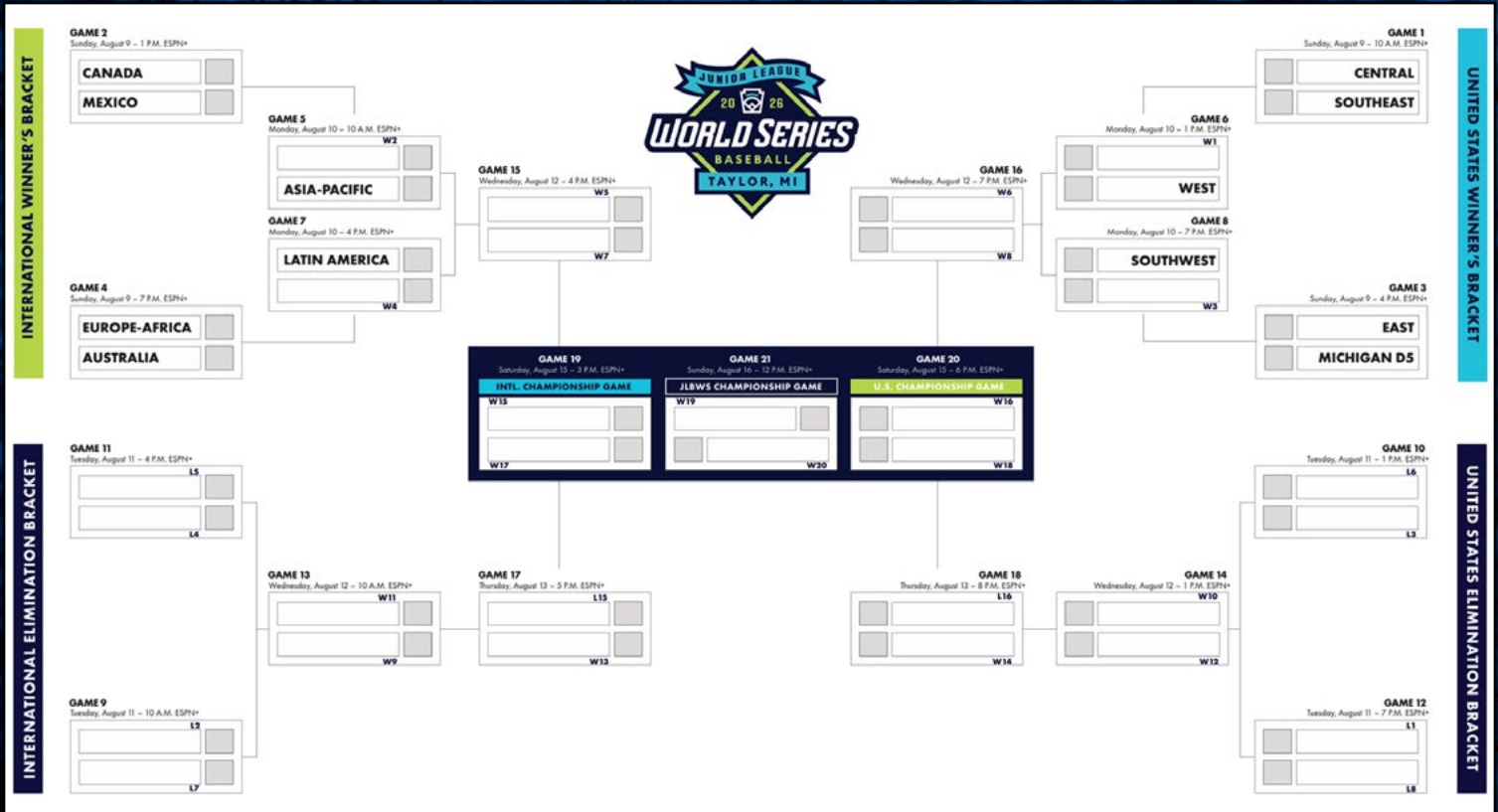
Admission is \$5 per car during the tournament and covers admission and parking.

Bring on the big crowds

In 2023 and again in 2024 the host team representing Michigan District 5 was Taylor North LL. Those teams claimed the USA Championship side of the tournament and advanced to the JLWS finals before losing to Chinese Taipei. A "host team" representing District 5 has never won a JLWS title.

While the reigning dynasty from Chinese Taipei may bring the beef, so to speak, having a host team in the tournament brought the crowds, filling seats and pitching tents on a regular basis. Every Taylor game is jammed with fans of all ages. That often-included cheering sections made up of school friends and others who followed the local team. They had fun, and they were loud.

Taylor's final two games of the 2024 tournament – a 9-7 victory to win the USA title and the loss to the Chinese Taipei in the finals – drew nearly 5,000 fans each day. The year before showed the same trend. Until the advent of the host team in 2018, attendance was nowhere near as large as it has been over the past few Augusts.





Golf Improvement Continues

With Lakes of Taylor completed, the work shifts to Taylor Meadows

A**FTER** a spring full of renovations, all 18 holes on the Lakes of Taylor Golf Course (25505 Northline Road) re-opened in June. Construction on the Taylor Meadows Golf Course (25360 Ecorse Road) will begin the week of August 17.

Taylor's golf courses were designed by the famous American golf designer Arthur Hills, who designed over 200 courses around the world. Hills' firm, Hills/ Forrest / Smith, renovated or modified more than 120 courses, including some of the country's most renowned clubs, often in preparation for championship play.

The Lakes of Taylor is a par 72 championship course and spans over 7,000 yards from its longest tees. The course begins with a picturesque stadium hole where golfers kick off from an elevated tee and play between 332 and 435 yards. What follows is a course that is thought-provoking, perfect for challenging more experienced players.

Taylor Meadows is the perfect place for golfers to improve their game. This layout on a tight parcel of land offers the ideal place for outings and many challenges.

Here are the multiple projects going on at each golf course this year.

At the Lakes of Taylor Golf Club:

- **New bunkers:** All the sand is being removed (don't get too excited golfers, more is being added). A concrete mesh liner became the new base in the bunkers. It allows water to pass through, but sediment to stay down. Then the bunkers were reshaped with clean edges. Lastly, all new white sand was added back in.
- **Driving range renovation:** The hitting deck will be brand new. Where the existing hitting mats are laid is all new concrete and pavers. On top of the new concrete slab is a state-of-the-art Turf Hound continuous tee line. The grass portion of the driving range has been completely leveled and re-seeded with new turf.
- **Replacement of AC units:** Brand new cooling units and controls were installed for the clubhouse.
- **New bridges:** The existing bridges were restructured

to enhance support. The new supports were topped with all new composite Trex decking.

- **New digital sign:** A refresh of the front sign with a crisper LED display was installed.
- **New visual/sound system:** A full revamp of the building's sound system with upgraded projection displays will be added. This project is set to take place in Fall 2026.
- **Pro Shop remodel:** New check-in counter and merchandise fixtures added.
- **Furniture:** New indoor-outdoor furniture for the banquet room and restaurant has been added.

Taylor Meadows Golf Club will follow the same specifications in many ways:

- New bunkers
- New digital signage
- New furniture

In addition, at Taylor Meadows:

- **A pond expansion on holes #1 and #9:** This will allow better retention of water for irrigation and further mitigate floods for our Taylor residents.
- **Bar renovation:** Expansion of the bar to create more seating and better storage.
- **Installed all new AC units** in 2025.
- **Upgraded all the TrackMan golf simulators** in 2025.

If you are looking for fun, Taylor Golf is the place to be. Upcoming events include:

- Night Golf Tournament (September 18)
- League Appreciation Tournament (October 3)
- Superintendent's Revenge Tournament (October 4)
- Senior Appreciation (October 5-6)
- Chili Open (October 25)
- Comedy Show (November 7)
- Thanksgiving Dinner (November 26)

For more information on the Lakes of Taylor and Taylor Meadows, call (734) 287-2100 or click taylorgolf.com.



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From the Superintendent

Michael Wegher



Taylor Community,

WELCOME to the 2026/2027 school year! Over the past weeks, our staff has been working hard on getting everything ready to welcome all of our students back. We are working on making sure that your children are safe and supported in all Taylor schools. Children will only grow and thrive when we know that they feel safe and comfortable to do so. We are all dedicated to this task and are excited to kick things off.

We have entered the second year of our five-year strategic plan. This plan serves as a roadmap to guide our work and vision over the next five years. The plan included input from all of our stakeholders, comparisons to districts that are similar to us, and input from our school leaders to develop attainable goals. In June, district leaders met to assess what was accomplished in the first year and established goals for year two. I am excited to continue to use this plan as our roadmap to improving the Taylor School District.

We are continuing our partnership with Barton Malow Builders and The Collaborative. Last year, they assessed our facilities and began the process of planning to redesign Taylor High School. We are currently in the final phases of the design process and are hoping to proceed into the process with bidding for the Taylor High School redesign project in the fall. They have really taken the feedback of our stakeholders to create a design that puts safety first, provides improved academic spaces, creates a more efficient building, and brings more natural light into Taylor High. Stay tuned for renderings and other items about the design to be released this fall by visiting our bond webpage, <https://taylorschools.net/bond>!

Work is ongoing for our new Taylor High Athletics Facility. We are looking forward to hosting games and conducting classes on our new athletic grounds. This has been an upgrade that is much needed and long overdue. The upgrade includes improvements to the baseball and softball fields, tennis courts, and a new turf field for football and soccer, creating opportunities for students to learn, complete, and grow in first-class facilities. It is something that our students, athletes, and community can take pride in. I look forward to hosting events at our new facilities!

There are great things happening around the Taylor School District on a daily basis, and we look forward to many more great things this school year. We're really excited to hit the ground running. Our work will continue, but we believe we're in a great place to make sure our students begin the year on the right track. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about our district and enroll your child, please visit taylorschools.net/enroll or reach out to me with any questions.

I want to close by sharing my core values with you. Those values are: Community, Integrity, Justice, and Authenticity. These values are at the heart of who I am both personally and professionally. As Superintendent, you can always count on me to follow these values to lead the Taylor School District forward everyday.

Sincerely,
Michael B. Wegher
Superintendent, Taylor School District

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL:
Tues. September 8 • Grades K - 12
Half Day of School in the a.m.

START / DISMISSAL TIMES

Elementary Schools:
8:38 a.m. – 3:32 p.m.
Half Days - 11:49 a.m.

Middle Schools:
8:05 a.m. – 2:57 p.m.
Half Days - 11:10 a.m.

High School:
7:25 a.m. – 2:20 p.m.
Half Days - 10:36 a.m.

Taylor School District

13500 Pine Street
Taylor, MI 48180
(734) 374-1200

Elementary Schools

Holland	(313) 295-5795
Kinyon	(313) 295-5802
McDowell	(734) 374-1240
Moody	(313) 295-5807
Myers	(734) 946-6602
Randall	(313) 295-5812
Taylor Parks	(734) 374-1246

Middle Schools

Hoover	(313) 295-5775
West	(313) 295-5783

High School

Taylor High School	(734) 946-6551
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Education Centers

Johnson Early Childhood Center	(313) 295-8362
Taylor Career and Technical Center	(313) 295-5757
Taylor Virtual Learning Academy	(313) 295-8362 ext. #12815

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Outside Prescriptions Welcome



From Your Board of Education

Exciting Changes as Schools Open in Taylor!

The start of the new school year is bringing a wave of anticipation and excitement, thanks to several transformative initiatives and opportunities designed to benefit our students, teachers, and the community as a whole.

One of the highlights this year is the city's robust education program, focused on expanding resources and fostering academic excellence. New initiatives have been introduced to enhance student learning, provide innovative teaching methods, and offer extracurricular activities that nurture creativity and leadership skills. These programs demonstrate our district's firm commitment to empowering the next generation and ensuring their success in both academics and beyond.

Another development is the construction of new athletic fields, which will provide state-of-the-art facilities for student-athletes and foster a sense of community pride. These fields aren't just spaces to play sports; they represent opportunities for students to develop teamwork, discipline, and physical fitness, while encouraging community engagement through competitive events and recreational activities.

Additionally, the reconfiguration of Taylor High School marks a significant milestone in our district's dedication to creating modern and functional learning environments. The newly designed layout will include upgraded classrooms, dedicated spaces for STEM education, enhanced accessibility, and improved technology infrastructure. This transformation will ensure that students and educators alike can thrive in a supportive and inspiring educational setting.

As we prepare for an incredible school year, the Taylor School District is proud to continue investing in the future of our young people. These exciting advancements are more than just physical changes; they symbolize our shared vision of growth, collaboration, and opportunity.

Let's make this year one to remember! Good luck to all students, teachers, and families as we embark on this next chapter of education.



~ **Linda Moore,**
Board President

Our district has come such a long way over the past year! I have always believed in our community's ability to turn the district around, and seeing that belief come to life is incredibly rewarding. We are officially moving forward in every area - facilities, academics, athletics, and our daily procedures.

I am so proud to be part of the collective effort driving this progress. Taylor School District has boundless potential, and this positive shift has been a long time coming. I cannot wait to kick off this school year with so much positive momentum and celebrate the great things still to come.

~ **Stephanie Shufeldt,**
Board Secretary



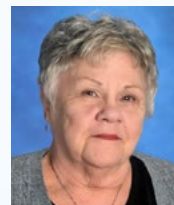
Starting a new school year is filled with excitement, hope and goals. My first full year as a Taylor School Board Member was challenging, however my focus has always been on providing the best education possible, in the safest environment for our students and I believe we are moving in that direction.

Below are a few positive additions that were made to improve the Taylor School District experience:

- New English program added
- New special education programs added
- New innovative classes added at the Taylor Career and Technical Center
- Bus Patrol Cameras installed
- Zero eyes detection program implemented
- Protective fencing around all elementary school playgrounds
- All building roof projects will be completed by 2027
- Bond/Athletic facilities project has begun
- Bond/Renovation plans are in the process for High School

Even though we have a long way to go, I am very pleased to see how far we have already come. We have amazing staff who are dedicated to their fields, making sure our Taylor School District students and student families are receiving the best educational experience possible.

Meeting and speaking with our Taylor families have given me insight into some things that we need to



Taylor School District Strategic Plan Summary | 2025-2030

address and that is my goal for year two of my term.

I am looking forward to the upcoming school year, and excited to continue to accomplish goals. I hope all of you have a wonderful summer and come back in September rested and ready to learn and achieve your dreams.

~ Kathie Fields,
Board Treasurer

Having been a part of closing of the 25/26 school year and watching our graduates receiving their diplomas, ready to move onto their next phase of life, has been an honor. I am now looking forward to the new beginning of 26/27.



This year has not been without a few bumps however I believe we have made significant progress in updating/repairing our buildings, progress with adding new classes and upgrading our security programs. I am looking forward to the building progress of our new athletic fields.

Our school district doesn't stop in the summer months, our staff are busy with professional development, repairs, cleaning, painting meetings and much more, all in preparation for our students' return in September. I want to thank all of them for their Dedication.

I am looking forward to again being a part of Taylor School District families and students' educational process as they work to reach their goals.

Welcome back to the 2026/2027 school year.

~ Mark Westphal,
Board Trustee

MISSION

We will create a welcoming and innovative learning environment that nurtures the whole child, empowering every student to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

VISION

Educate with Purpose, Engage with Passion, Empower the Future.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Linda Moore – President
Korey Morris – Vice President
Kathie Fields – Treasurer
Stephanie Shufeldt – Secretary

Ann Block – Trustee
Justin Mordarski – Trustee
Mark Westphal – Trustee

SUPERINTENDENT

Michael Wegher

BELIEF STATEMENTS

We believe...

- All students can learn and succeed.
- All students deserve a safe and positive learning environment.
- Success is built on a culture of collaboration.
- In developing a strong mindset of resiliency, integrity, and respect for ALL.
- That students and families are partners in setting meaningful goals that inspire a commitment to life-long learning.
- That success comes from an engaged and supportive community.
- In the importance of equity to ensure ALL students have the resources and support to succeed.
- In developing individuals who are independent thinkers.

STRATEGIC GOAL AREAS

Academics &
Programs

Learning Environment &
Culture

Communications &
Community Involvement

Personnel &
Leadership

Operations

Approved by Taylor Board of Education on June 4, 2025.



 **TAYLOR SCHOOL DISTRICT**

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN

ENROLL NOW

Transitional Kindergarten is a full-day program for children who turn five between July 1st and December 1st. It bridges the gap between Pre-K and Kindergarten, focusing on school readiness, social, and emotional development through play and exploration. Transitional Kindergarten offers children a chance to:

- Build social, emotional, and academic skills
- Develop independence and self-regulation
- Learn at a comfortable pace
- Gain confidence and strong communication skills

This program provides an extra year of growth before traditional Kindergarten, ensuring children are fully prepared for success.



Taylor School District Bond Program Update

Reset. Renewed. ReTailored for you.

IN 2021, Taylor voters made a bold investment in our schools by approving a \$130 million bond—one of the largest school bond programs in Metro Detroit. This investment is transforming learning environments, improving facilities, enhancing safety, and strengthening our schools for generations to come.

While the journey hasn't been without challenges, we are entering this next phase with renewed focus, transparency, and responsibility. These upgrades are more than bricks and mortar—they represent our commitment to putting students at the center of every decision and creating a stronger future for our entire community.

Understanding the Bond Process

Large-scale bond projects do not happen overnight. Before construction can begin, each project moves through several important phases to ensure taxpayer dollars are spent responsibly and projects are completed safely and efficiently.



Step 1: Design & Planning

During this phase, district leaders, architects, engineers, and construction professionals work together to identify needs, develop project plans, establish budgets, and create detailed designs. This process helps ensure each project aligns with the district's long-term goals and educational priorities.

Step 2: Procurement & Permitting

Once designs are finalized, projects move into bidding and procurement. Contractors are selected through a competitive process, materials are ordered, and required permits and approvals are secured from local and state agencies.

Step 3: Construction & Implementation

This is the phase most visible to the community. Site preparation, renovations, and construction activities take place while teams work to minimize disruptions to students and staff.

Step 4: Completion & Closeout

After construction is finished, projects undergo inspections, testing, and final approvals to ensure all work meets quality and safety standards before being fully completed and occupied.

While it may sometimes appear that little is happening, there is often significant work taking place behind the scenes to move projects through these phases.

PROJECTS COMPLETED AND UNDERWAY Elementary School Improvements

Following district building consolidations, renovations were completed at Holland, Myers, and McDowell Elementary Schools to accommodate students transitioning from a recently closed building. These updates ensured students had the space, resources, and learning environments needed for success.



Holland Elementary School – Window Ventilation

Project: New classroom ventilation windows have been installed to improve airflow and circulation throughout the building. This upgrade supports student comfort and healthier learning environments. The project recently passed its required state inspection, with final certification currently underway.

Myers Elementary School – Classroom

Acoustics: Work is underway to improve sound quality in classrooms through the installation of acoustic ceiling baffles and will be



completed in June 2026. These enhancements help reduce echo and noise distractions while creating a more comfortable learning environment for students and staff.



Taylor High School Athletic Complex construction includes: concession and toilet rooms (top left) and the football field (top right); installation of a concrete turf anchor (middle left) and backstop foundation (middle right); and completion of the dugout foundation (bottom left) and excavation for underground stormwater storage required by the county (bottom right).

Taylor High School Athletic Complex

Construction is officially underway on the Taylor High School athletic complex improvements, marking an exciting milestone in the district's bond program. Following final approval from Wayne County, work began at the end of May and significant progress is already visible across the site. The football field has been stripped of topsoil, with drainage and stone base installation now in progress, while the tennis courts have been brought to grade in preparation for reconstruction. Foundations have been placed for the new concession and restroom facility, as well as the baseball and softball dugouts, and plumbing installation is currently underway. Crews are also beginning block installation for the dugouts and have started construction of the site's stormwater ponds.

When complete, the project will include:

- Renovated baseball and softball fields
- Updated tennis courts
- A new synthetic turf football and soccer field
- Upgraded concession and restroom facilities
- Enhanced entrances and site amenities

Community members can scan the QR code to view aerial drone footage and follow progress as construction continues.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO VIEW AERIAL DRONE FOOTAGE OF THE TSD ATHLETIC COMPLEX



Taylor High School Improvements

One of the most anticipated components of the bond program—the Taylor High School improvements—continues to move forward through the design phase. The project team has completed schematic design, representing approximately 30% of the overall design process and providing the first detailed look at future improvements throughout the building.

Over the past several months, architects have worked closely with district administrators, department heads, teachers, and staff to gather feedback and ensure the renovated spaces support modern teaching and learning needs. These collaborative planning sessions have helped shape classroom layouts and learning environments that will benefit students for years to come.

In addition, Barton Malow has completed a preliminary cost estimate based on the schematic designs, allowing the district and project team to continue refining plans while maintaining a strong focus on budget stewardship. As design work progresses, additional details and renderings will be shared with the community.

While construction on the athletic complex is already visible, important planning work is happening behind the scenes to prepare for the next phase of improvements at Taylor High School.

Looking Ahead

The bond program continues to move forward with multiple projects in various stages of planning, design, and construction. As work progresses, the district remains committed to providing regular updates and maintaining transparency throughout the process.

We are grateful for the trust our community placed in this bond program and look forward to sharing additional milestones in the months ahead.

Stay tuned for more updates as we continue enhancing facilities for Taylor students, staff, and families.

Learn more at taylorschools.org/bond



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.TAYLORSCHOOLS.NET

WE ARE HIRING!

JOIN OUR TEAM

Taylor School District

Educate with Purpose, Engage with Passion,
and Empower the Future.



DID YOU KNOW During the 2025-2026 School Year:

The **Family Resource Center** is dedicated to helping students and families by providing essential items such as hygiene products, school supplies, and connections to valuable community resources.

If you have a student in the district and are experiencing a change in your living situation, displacement, or need additional support, please contact us at 313-295-0535 — we are here to help.

We are also always looking to build meaningful community partnerships to better serve our students and families. If you are interested in supporting the Family Resource Center, please contact Bridget Jarvis at bridget.jarvis@taylorschools.net. Together, we can make a lasting difference for our students.

Five Years of Celebrating Unity at the Special Olympics

Our recent Unified Special Olympics event was an unforgettable celebration of inclusion, teamwork, and community spirit. More than 250 athletes and partners participated in exciting activities, and supported by 125 dedicated volunteers. The day was made even more special by the participation of our local Police Department, along with the SWAT Team, who helped foster a fun and safe environment.

A highlight of the event was the glow dance floor and live DJ, which brought everyone together to celebrate with music, movement, and joy.

This amazing day wouldn't have been possible without the generous support of our community! We would like to thank all of our generous donors! Thank you for supporting our students!

Taylor Career Center & Technical Education (CTE) Offerings

The Taylor Career and Technical Center continues to grow as a leader in career-focused education, currently serving nearly 700 students through partnerships with 10 school districts across the Downriver area. The center offers 16 unique Career and Technical Education programs, including automotive, aviation and drones, business management and administration, computer repair, construction, cosmetology, culinary arts, cybersecurity, digital multimedia, HVAC, JROTC, EMT, marketing, nursing, teacher cadet, and welding and fabrication. Students in these programs gain hands-on experience that prepares them for both college and careers through real-world learning opportunities.

Every program at the Career Center offers work-based learning experiences, industry-standard certifications and credentials, college credit opportunities, leadership development, field trips, career and technical student organizations, scholarships, and more. Students are able to explore career pathways while building technical skills, employability skills, and confidence that will help them succeed after graduation. The Career Center focuses on helping students connect classroom learning to future careers while also building

strong partnerships with local businesses and industry professionals.

Principal Carly Barnard shared, "Career and Technical Education gives students opportunities to discover their passions, build meaningful skills, and gain experiences that prepare them for both college and careers. Our students graduate with confidence, certifications, leadership experience, and a clearer vision for their future. We are proud to provide learning opportunities that truly connect education to the real world."

The district is also excited to continue expanding opportunities for students through the Career Academy model. Beginning in the 2026–2027 school year, the district will launch the Academy of Health Sciences and the Academy of Advanced Manufacturing and Skilled Trades in addition to the existing Freshman Academy. Planned for the 2027–2028 school year are the Academy of Business and Technology, the Academy of Professional Services, and the proposed Academy of Collegiate Studies and Leadership, which will focus on Advanced Placement coursework, college readiness, and academic preparation. These academies will help students personalize their educational pathways while preparing for future success in college, careers, and beyond. Visit our website at <https://tcc.taylorschools.net/>

Taylor School District

2026-2027

BACK TO SCHOOL PACKETS

ENROLL NOW

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and Apple Stores!

PARENT CONNECT BENEFITS

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- Check Grades/Assignments
- View Report Cards
- View Bus Info
- Update Contact Info
- Control Annual Re-Enrollment
- Complete Yearly Paperwork
- Sign Up for Emails

BACK TO SCHOOL PACKETS CAN BE DONE ON A PC OR YOUR MOBILE DEVICE.

[TAYLORSCHOOLS.NET/PARENTCONNECT](https://taylorschools.net/parentconnect)

2026-27 Taylor School District Calendar



SEPTEMBER

September 8

First Day of School for Students: 1/2 Day No School in PM for Grades K-12: PM Staff Professional Development PreK-12

September 9 - 10

1/2 Day Kindergarten ONLY

OCTOBER

October 7

Official Student Count Day

October 22

Elementary PreK-5 Parent Conferences in Afternoon & Evening: 1/2 Day No School in PM for Grades PreK-5

October 22

Middle School 6-8 Parent Conferences in Afternoon & Evening: 1/2 Day No School in PM for Grades 6-8

October 16

High School 9-12 Parent Conferences in Afternoon & Evening: 1/2 Day No School in PM for Grades 9-12

October 22

Career Center Parent Conferences in Afternoon & Evening: 1/2 Day No School in PM for CTE

October 23

1/2 Day No School in PM for Grades PreK-12 (TFT Comp Day for Conferences)

October 29

1/2 Day No School in PM for Grades PreK-12 (Teacher Record Day)

October 30

1/2 Day No School in PM for Grades PreK-12 (Teacher Record Day)

October 30

End of 1st Quarter for Grades K-12

NOVEMBER

November 2

Beginning of 2nd Quarter for Grades K-12

November 3

No School for Grades PreK-12: Staff Professional Development PreK-12

November 18

1/2 Day No School in PM for Grades PreK-12: Staff Professional Development PreK-12

November 25

1/2 Day No School in PM for Grades PreK-12

November 26 - 27

No School for Grades PreK-12: Thanksgiving Break (District Closed)

DECEMBER

December 17 & 18

Middle and High School Semester Exams for Grades 6-12

December 17 & 18

1/2 Day No School in PM for Grades PreK-12

December 18

Semester 1/Quarter 2 ends for Grades K-12

December 21 - January 1

No School for Grades PreK-12: Winter Break (District Closed)

JANUARY

January 4

School Reopens at Regular Time

January 4

Semester 2/Quarter 3 begins for Grades K-12

January 4

1/2 Day No School in PM for Grades PreK-12 (Teacher Record Day)

January 18

No School Martin Luther King Day (District Closed)

FEBRUARY

February 10

Official Student Count Day

February 15

No School Mid-Winter Break

February 16

No School for Grades PreK-12: Staff Professional Development PreK-12

February 25

Elementary PreK-5 Parent Conferences in Afternoon & Evening: 1/2 Day No School in PM for Grades PreK-5

February 25

Middle School 6-8 Parent Conferences in Afternoon & Evening: 1/2 Day No School in PM for Grades 6-8

February 25

High School 9-12 Parent Conferences in Afternoon & Evening: 1/2 Day No School in PM for Grades 9-12

February 25

Career Center Parent Conferences in Afternoon & Evening: 1/2 Day No School in PM for CTE

February 26

1/2 Day No School in PM for Grades PreK-12 (TFT Comp Day for Conferences)

MARCH

March 24

1/2 Day No School in PM for Grades PreK-12 (Teacher Record Day)

March 25

1/2 Day No School in PM for Grades PreK-12 (Teacher Record Day)

March 25

Quarter 3 Ends for Grade K-12

March 26 - April 2

No School for Grades PreK-12: Spring Break (District Closed)

APRIL

April 1 - 2

No School for Grades PreK-12: Spring Break (District Closed)

April 5

School Reopens at Regular Time

April 5

Quarter 4 begins for Grades K-12

April 23

No School for Grades PreK-12: Staff Professional Development PreK-12

MAY

May 19

1/2 Day No School in PM for Grades PreK-12: Staff Professional Development PreK-12

May 31

Memorial Day: No School for Grades PreK-12 (District Closed)

JUNE

June 3

Taylor High Graduation

June 10 & 11

Middle and High School Semester Exams for Grades 6-12

June 10 & 11

1/2 Day No School in PM for Grades PreK-12

June 11

Last Day of School for Students

June 14 - 18

Tentative make up day(s) in order to meet state requirements due to District Act of God Day(s), if needed

Calendar is subject to change.

Rebirth of the old Masco Headquarters

Iconic buildings to be repurposed for professional businesses, events and conventions

SOMEWHERE, the late Alex Manoogian is smiling. The old Masco Corporation Headquarters at 21001 Van Born Road, the result of Manoogian Family's decades of hard work and innovation and vacant for the last six years, is being renovated into a high-scale, mixed-use facility housing professional service and offices and convention/event venues.



In 1920, a 19-year-old Manoogian immigrated to the United States from Smyrna, Turkey. After holding several jobs on the East Coast – including spending time in the screw machine business – he came to Detroit in 1924. He continued to learn the screw machine business, along with metalworking for automotive components. Six months after the great stock market collapse in 1929, Manoogian founded Masco Screw Products Company with two partners, Harry Adjemian and Charles Saunders.

The name of the company would be created from their names – M(anoogian), A(djemian) and S(aunders) plus the “co” for company.

What started with \$33,000 in assets -- some used machines, a truck and a few thousand dollars – would turn into the world's largest faucet manufacturer and



leading American cabinet manufacturer. As the Great Depression grew, so did the company. Masco's first contract was with the old Hudson Motor Company for \$7,000 in 1930. By 1935, the company's sales reached \$100,000. The following year it became publicly traded on the Detroit Stock Exchange and by 1942, Masco sales exceeded \$1 million.

Masco Screw Products turned into Masco Corporation and became a huge corporate holding company for numerous creations and acquisitions, probably the most famous of which is Delta, one of the first single-handle hot/cold faucets.

Before Alex Manoogian gave the reigns of Masco in 1986 to his son, Richard, the company moved into its new headquarters in Taylor. Masco Corporation created the largest and most iconic building in the city between Van Born Road and the I-94 freeway. During its heyday, visitors witnessed a headquarters full of impeccable artwork and the top lines of business furnishings – it was a corporate headquarters but looked more like a museum. Masco stayed in the Taylor headquarters until announcing in 2015 that it would be relocated to a new, smaller facility in Livonia.

By 2017, Ford Motor Company agreed to take over the headquarters and the adjacent Kmart property. At that time, Ford needed office space for nearly 1,000 employees during its Dearborn campus transition along with storage areas for vehicles. The old Kmart property is not part of this new proposal for the headquarters building.

Sitting on an 18.75-acre property on the north side of I-94, the old headquarters includes a mammoth 417,000 square feet. Planning Department Director Lora Fell said the key to the proposal was preventing any site demolition, preserving the natural features of the unique building and its campus-like setting.

The Planning Commission approved rezoning it to Light Industrial/Planned Unit Development (I-1/PUD). City Council held the first hearing on the change during its June 2 meeting.

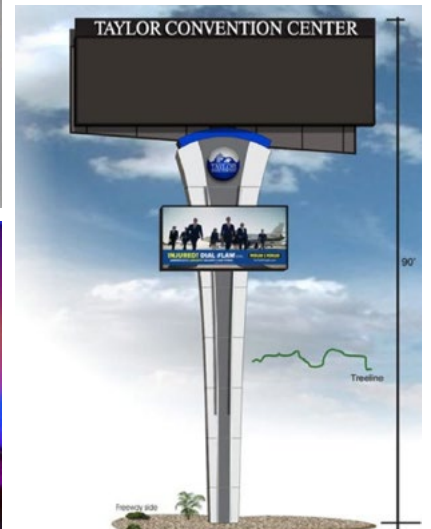
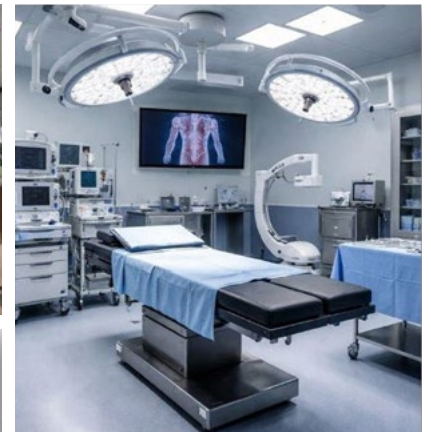


"We couldn't be more excited about this project," Mayor Tim Woolley said. "PMI Taylor LLC has been great to work with. It's been a great relationship. That old headquarters building is, in many ways, a key to moving the Van Born Road corridor forward in the future."

"This plan will create and house good jobs in the medical, storage and events space. It will attract business owners seeking quality office space and it will be a regional economic draw."

The approvals will lead to a mixed-use facility including professional services and offices (75,782 square feet); an event venue including entertainment and recreation center (60,000 square feet); and executive storage (132,050 square feet). The storage portion of the facility will be housed in what was a windowless section that previously was used for the same reason. The event center will focus on weddings, professional conferences and expositions.

The professional portion will include medical offices, clinics and outpatient surgical centers. That area will include healthcare delivery, procedure rooms, recovery areas and administrative offices. That type of facility will provide stable employment, daytime traffic patterns and have a strong compatibility with



Masco continued on page 30



Masco continued from page 29

both office and event programming, according to the developers of the plan.

The renovations will use the existing headquarters structure and no demolition is planned.

The project overview proposes the adaptive reuse and internal reconfiguration of a large, existing multi-story commercial structure into a five-condominium mixed use development. The PUD approach allows for this type of strategic mixed use of an existing site.

It is designed to introduce diversified employment, medical, commercial and community-oriented uses within a single framework. The redevelopment will leverage the building's substantial existing floor area, structured circulation and regional access while introducing targeted architectural updates and improved entrances.

The developers will also create a 90-foot state-of-the-art billboard sign parallel to the I-94 corridor along with upgrading monument signage along Van Born Road.

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Sunday Morning Worship - 11:00 AM
Bible Class • Wed., 11:00 AM & 7:00 PM

St. John's Lutheran Church
Rev. Mark Whittaker, Pastor



Sunday Worship Service 9:30 am
Adult Bible Study 11:00 am
Sunday School 11:00 am

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734-287-2080

Website - stjohnstaylor.org
YouTube - St John's Lutheran Taylor, MI

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Bob Jeannot, Senior Pastor | 734-922-5630 | Jim Olson, Pastor
www.newwinecommunity.org

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DTE

Employment Opportunities for All Abilities



Services To Enhance Potential (STEP) is a non-profit organization that provides support and services to more than 1,100 individuals with disabilities and mental health needs residing in Wayne County. STEP helps individuals with barriers to employment reach their full potential and achieve their life goals through various programs and trainings. These include skill building, supported employment, volunteer opportunities, vocational rehabilitation, and more. With offerings like the Progressive Art Studio Collective (PASC), STEP in the Kitchen, and training at our three STEP Thrift Store and Donation Centers, STEP offers opportunities to individuals of all abilities.

Join us for National Thrift Store Day on Monday, August 17!
50% off all regular priced clothing and accessories




Progressive Art Studio Collective (PASC) - Southgate Studio & Gallery
13721 Eureka Rd
Southgate, MI 48195
(734) 250-8695

STEP Thrift Store & Donation Center
13705 Eureka Road
Southgate, MI 48195
(734) 284-0814

For more information, please call 734-718-0483 or visit www.STEPcentral.org



ST ALFRED'S

FALL FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 25, 26, & 27, 2026

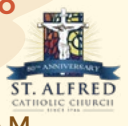
FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
6PM - 11PM	2PM - 11PM	12PM - 6PM

LIVE MUSIC

FRIDAY EVENING | ATOMIC RADIO
SATURDAY AFTERNOON | NORTHVILLE FOLK
SATURDAY EVENING | PHOENIX THEORY
SUNDAY AFTERNOON | GRUPO VICIO

FOOD | DRINKS | RAFFLES
RIDES | FREE PARKING
OUTDOOR SUNDAY MASS AT 11 AM

24175 BASKE | TAYLOR, MI 48180 | STALFREDTAYLOR.ORG

ABSENTEE BALLOTS



Sign up or verify you're signed up to receive an absentee ballot by scanning the QR code



General Election Ballots will begin mailing on September 24

How to return your absentee ballot

In person

Clerk's Office
City Hall
23555 Goddard
Taylor, MI 48180

Election Drop Box

- City Hall 23555 Goddard
- Senior Center: 6750 Troy
- Taylor Library: 12303 Pardee
- DPW: 25605 Northline

By mail

No postage needed
Sign and seal your ballot, then place it in the mail

Voting from home is safe, easy and secure

- Receive your ballot in the mail
- Vote your ballot at a time convenient for you
- Seal, sign and return your ballot
- The signature on your ballot will be verified before it is accepted and locked away until it can be processed by a counting board of bi-partisan election workers

Questions? Contact the Clerk's Office

Call (734) 287-6550 Option 6

Email cityclerk@cityoftaylormi.gov



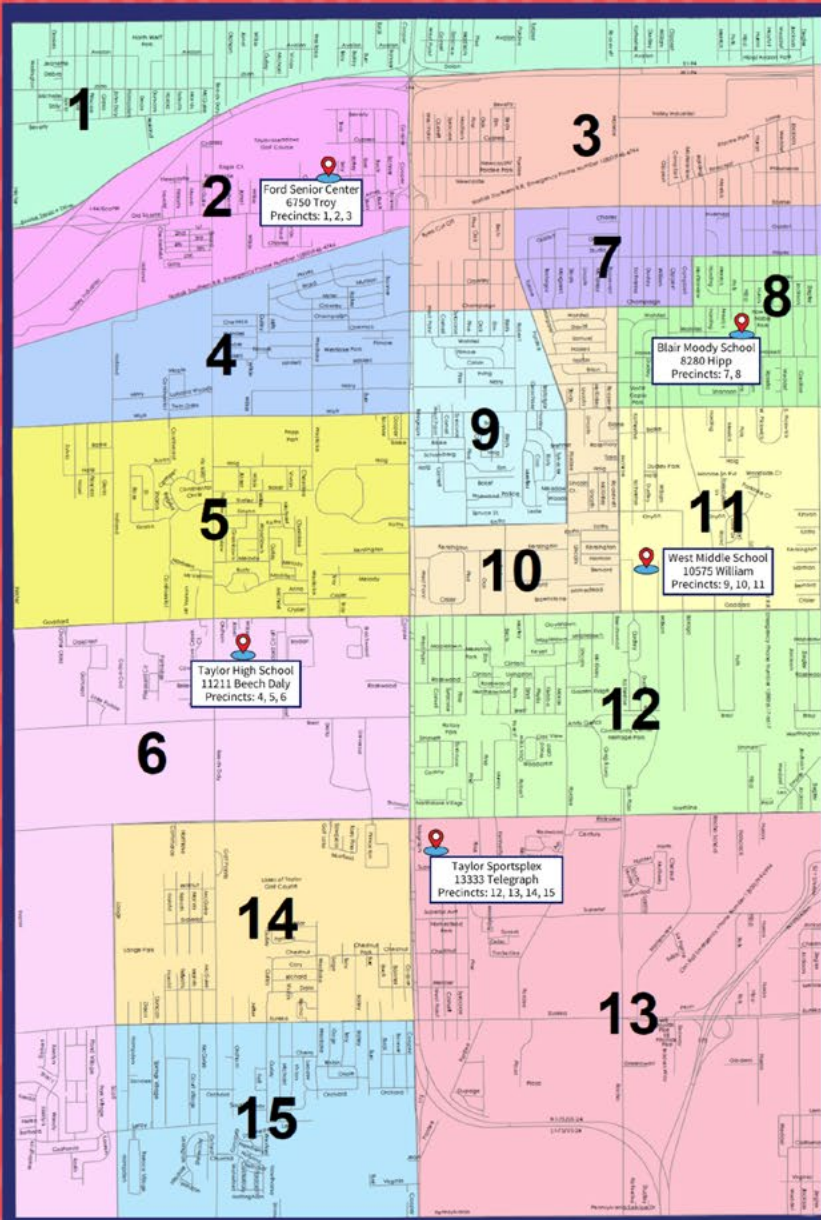
August 4- Primary Election | November 3- General Election

Do you know where your polling location is?

Questions? Contact the Clerk's Office

Call (734) 287-6550

Email cityclerk@ci.taylor.mi.us



Polling Location	Precincts
Ford Senior Center	1, 2, 3
Taylor High School	4, 5, 6
Blair Moody Elem.	7, 8
West Middle School	9, 10, 11
Taylor Sportsplex	12, 13, 14, 15



Scan here to verify
your polling location

August 4 - Primary Election | November 3 - General Election

Adjustments and Investment

New Priority Waste CEO rolls out improvement plan to solidify curbside service

PRiority Waste, plagued by delays in service in several Detroit-area communities including Taylor, has announced a "5-Point Recovery Plan" that started early in July. The plan was announced in a letter from new Chief Executive Officer Aaron Johnson to the customers across the region.



The five points detailed in the plan include expansion of the company's fleet of trucks; staffing enhancements involving new hires and recruiting efforts; reinvestment in trash and recycling containers; customer service improvements through a partnership with a Michigan-based contact center; and a promise to improve recovery operations within a day of a missed pickup.

"... we are embracing a culture of continuous improvement," Johnson wrote. "Every day, we are working to be better than we were the day before. Our objective is not simply to restore service, but to build a stronger, more reliable company than the one that existed before ... and hold ourselves accountable for delivering measurable results.

"Most importantly, we are committed to earning back your trust, not through words alone, but through a sustained improvement and reliable performance ..."

Johnson was elevated to CEO of the company in early June and Robert Simon was named the new senior vice president of fleet as part of the original changes that attempt to address the shortcomings. A \$190 million

influx of new capital was likely even more important.



PRIORITY
INNOVATE • OPERATE

Mayor Tim Woolley and other staff from the city met with officials from Priority Waste in late June. Woolley said that the meeting was "very productive". The City of Taylor is in the middle of a 10-year contract with Priority Waste.

"We had a very frank discussion," Woolley said. "They offered good ideas that should alleviate some of the problems that they are experiencing. While we understand that they are a subcontractor that is expected to provide specific services for us, we also understand that providing curbside service across a city as large as Taylor is also a partnership between the city and whomever we hire. Our team offered several ideas that all of us thought would make a difference."

Priority Waste's new recovery plan focuses on the following points:

- **FLEET EXPANSION:** Priority Waste has purchased almost 200 trucks previously operating under rental agreements. The company has also purchased 91 new automated side-load collection vehicles equipped with upgraded technology to improve efficiency and reliability. They have received 30 of those side-loader vehicles to date with the remaining to be delivered by the end of August. Frequent vehicle breakdowns have been a large problem for Priority Waste, and the new shipment should improve route reliability.
- **STAFFING:** In June, the company hired 41 new drivers, and Priority Waste continues to recruit more. The company will seek to maintain a 20 percent bench capacity of drivers, which would give them a more effective plan for dealing with absences,



seasonal demands and unexpected demands without disrupting customer services.

- **CONTAINER INVESTMENT:** This was an issue heavily discussed at the meeting between the company and the City of Taylor. Limited investment in this area resulted in what Priority Waste called a significant backlog of container deliveries and repairs. As a result, during Johnson's first week as CEO, the company spent more than \$2 million to purchase 19,000 new containers, cutting into the backlog. In addition, it has expanded its container delivery crew from five to nine over the month of June. Johnson aimed at eliminating Priority Waste's backlog of demands for containers by mid-July. Lack of replacement containers and parts has been a constant problem in Taylor.
- **CUSTOMER SERVICE:** Johnson admitted that Priority Waste's customer service operations were not adequately staffed even before these recent breakdowns. As a result, the company is now using an outside customer support center, based in Michigan. Priority Waste saw a significant improvement in responsiveness and a decrease in call center volume of about 50 percent.
- **RECOVERY OPERATIONS:** While all these plans aim to eliminate shortcomings in service, Johnson admitted that issues and errors will still surface from time to time. When they do, missed collections will be recovered the very next day, according to a new company edict.

After making these announcements in early June, Johnson promised to follow up with another message to customers in August.

Johnson has a two-decade track record of driving operations improvements and enhancing service reliability, according to Priority Waste. He's a fourth-generation waste industry operator who will oversee strengthening operations and upgrading the company's infrastructure.

Most recently, he served as the president of the Midwest Region at Reworld, a waste management company. He oversaw regional operations, commercial growth and service delivery. Prior to that, he spent two decades with Waste Management in leadership roles across Canada and the Great Lakes. Over his career, he's led or helped integrate more than 50 acquisitions.

Over the past 12 years, Taylor has used four waste companies for its curbside service program that includes waste, recycling and bulk pickups. Priority Waste replaced GFL Environmental. Before that, Rizzo Environmental Services took over in 2016 from Midwest Sanitation.

The Wall That Heals comes to Taylor

The Wall that Heals, a three-quarter-size replica of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C., is coming to Heritage Park August 13-16. The display will be placed in the northern area of the park, near the soccer fields.



It was unveiled in 1996 and has since traveled to over 800 communities across the U.S., providing a space for veterans and their families to honor and remember those who served in the Vietnam War. The exhibit features a mobile education center that tells the story of the war and the impact of the memorial. Visitors can participate in activities and learn about the legacy of the memorial, which has been known to bring healing and comfort to many vets and their families.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund brings The Wall to communities across the country, visiting 31 cities this year. It will officially open in Heritage Park on Thursday, August 13 and remain open 24 hours a day until 2 p.m. on Sunday, August 16.

With the 44th Junior League World Series also taking place at Heritage Park at the same time and Taylor's proximity to Detroit and the rest of the metro area, crowds to exceed 10,000 are expected. The presenting sponsor is J&T Crova Towing. Other sponsors include Al's Asphalt, Mayor Tim Woolley, Port District Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie & Auxiliary #2148, and Conroy-Renye-McNeil VFW Post & Auxiliary 4422.

Two-Night Battle of the Bands to benefit Taylor CERT

Rock for a cause, raise money and make an impact by participating in the first "Two-Night Battle of the Bands", a charity event to benefit the Taylor Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). The event will be held in the Sheridan Center Open Air Pavilion from 5-10 p.m. September 11-12.



Taylor CERT is an all-volunteer program designed to help residents and first responders during major disasters such as storms, floods or other large-scale emergencies. They also attend local events like festivals and other large-scale gatherings. It operates under the supervision of the Taylor Fire Department.

It is open to all adults 18 and over; teens 13-17 with parental permission and some youths with parental permission and training.

Bands currently scheduled to play are Holeshoot, Copper Boom, Mustard Tigers and Conquest. For more information or to get involved, direct message Kimberly Boaz Duprey or Taylor CERT Community Emergency Response Team on Facebook.



CITY OF TAYLOR

Business News



One Star Bar is tribute to yesterday's taverns

Matt Taylor, his brother Zack and business partner James Meyers had a specific focus when they purchased what is now called The One Star Bar (20130 Goddard). They wanted a small, throwback bar that was going to remain just that. No fancy corporate shine. The location was formerly McGuckin's.

Matt Taylor explained that his group targeted the small bar as a throwback to neighborhood taverns of the past. He explained that many small taverns have been gobbled up by larger corporations, which quickly take away their homey feel. Nothing like that takes place at the One Star, which features tons of welcoming features from a wide range of food and drink, along with an upbeat atmosphere. It's comfortable and clean.

The City of Taylor, Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber and officials from Wayne County took time in June to celebrate the grand opening of the bar. City Clerk Cindy Bower represented the City of Taylor along with City Councilmen Bill

Patts and Dan Wallace and various staff members.

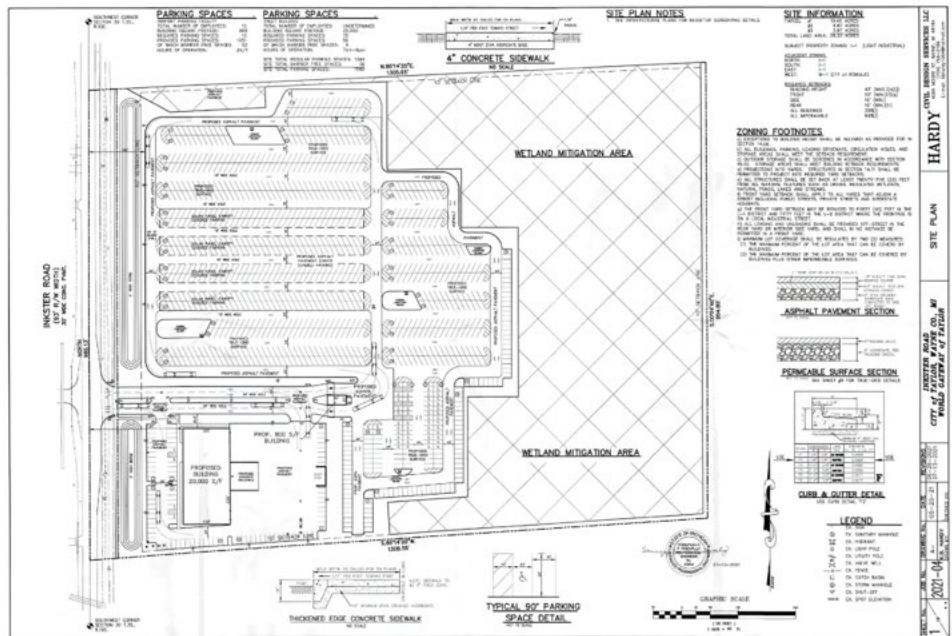
Monique Reister and Kate Currie attended for the SWCR and County Commissioner (and former city councilman) Alex Garza represented Wayne County.

Garza and others have always been big fans of Big League Brews (20428 Ecorse Road), a highly successful tavern also owned by Matt Taylor. Brother Zack owns and operates Brewligans Public House in Trenton.

The One Star Bar is open 11-2 a.m. every day of the week. For more information, check out their Facebook page or email onestarbartaylor@gmail.com.

World Gateway project restarts along Inkster Road

The World Gateway of Taylor project has restarted after essentially sitting dormant for over five years. The unique plan originally called for an 83,500-square-foot industrial center that included three environmentally friendly



“green” buildings and a parking lot made of permeable pavers for vehicle storage targeting traffic to and from Detroit Metropolitan Airport. Even the parking lot canopies featured solar panels.

However, that project stalled in late 2021 amid wetlands concerns from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE). Eventually a smaller project was approved including a wetland mitigation area more than double the original plan. While most of the rest of the 28.33-acre parcel is dominated by airport, valet and handicapped parking spaces, it still includes one 20,000-square-foot building that is speculative light industrial. Another 800-square-foot building is tied to the valet parking.

A “green” building is a building that, in its design, construction or operation, reduces or eliminates negative impacts, and has a positive effect on climate and natural environment. Green buildings preserve precious natural resources and improve quality of life. Permeable pavers are environmentally friendly, although installation is difficult and expensive. Parking lots made of permeable pavers reduce or eliminate the need for drainage systems and provide lower long-term costs. Storm water filtering through these types of pavers is considered one of the best management practices by industry experts.

Second Sheetz location rising rapidly on Telegraph and Champaign

The construction of the second of two new Sheetz convenience and gasoline locations in Taylor is moving quickly on the southwest corner of Telegraph and Champaign. That location will be directly south of the new Meijer Market Format location planned for the northwest corner, behind the Thrifty Florist.

The first location, on Eureka Road near I-75, directly in front of the new Marriott Hotel sites. It held a grand opening in May featuring giveaways and raffle prizes for

lucky winners, along with \$2,500 donations to Special Olympics and Forgotten Harvest Food Pantry.

Sheetz, founded in Pennsylvania, is famous for offering innovative convenience store experience including made-to-order food, 24/7 service and specialty beverages.



Rally House moves across the street from Southland Center

Rally House, one of the leading retailers of officially licensed professional sports apparel, gifts, and merchandise, relocated its Southland Center store to a new, larger location across the street from the center in the former Party City space. The new location triples the size of its store.

This larger footprint will allow Rally House to expand their product assortment and continue to solidify themselves as the go-to place to shop for licensed merchandise and local gear.

Customers can explore the full range of products online at www.rallyhouse.com for the latest updates and promotions. Rally House operates at more than 310 locations across 28 states.



Detroit Loves Tacos 2

Viral moment changed everything for 18-year-old Taylor High graduate

AT 19, Taylor High School graduate Alex Quinones is running a business of his own, Detroit Loves Tacos 2. The restaurant grew out of years spent working alongside his mother and stepfather at the original Detroit Loves Tacos on Fort Street. Quinones said he started helping when he was young and gradually learned every part of the operation, from food prep to cooking recipes that had been passed down through his family.

"Growing up, I watched my mom work incredibly hard to follow her dream, and that inspired me to follow mine," Quinones said.

After graduating from Taylor High School, he decided to open a restaurant in the community where he was raised. Using money he had saved, Quinones launched Detroit Loves Tacos 2 with a focus on serving fresh Mexican food made from scratch.

Like many new business owners, he quickly ran into challenges. Rising food costs and slower-than-expected sales put pressure on the restaurant during its early months.

"There was a point where my mom and I were talking about whether we could keep going," Quinones said. "At 19 years old, I felt like I was failing."

Hoping to bring in a few more customers, Quinones posted a TikTok about his family's journey in the restaurant business. The response was far bigger than he expected. The video reached thousands of viewers and introduced the restaurant to customers from across Michigan.

"The video wasn't meant to go viral," he said. "I just wanted people to know we were here."

The attention gave the business a boost and helped Detroit Loves Tacos 2 build a following far beyond Taylor.

Since sharing his story, Quinones has been featured on WXYZ-TV Channel 7, thrown out a ceremonial first pitch for the Detroit Tigers, and even welcomed a visit from Detroit native Jack White of The White Stripes. Those moments, among many others, reflect how much the restaurant's reach has grown since its early struggles. Quinones believes the restaurant's connection to family is what resonates with many customers.



"We're more than just a taco restaurant—we're a family story," he said.

Among the menu's most popular items are the birria tacos, served with consommé for dipping. Quinones said the dish has become a customer favorite and is often what first-time visitors come in to try.

As he looks to the future, Quinones hopes to grow the business, open additional locations, and eventually add a taco truck. He also hopes his experience encourages other young people to pursue their own business ideas.

"My biggest piece of advice is to not let your age stop you from chasing your goals," he said. "If you're willing to work hard, stay consistent and believe in yourself, anything is possible."

For Quinones, the restaurant is about more than food. It's a chance to build something of his own while continuing the family business that inspired him in the first place.

Detroit Loves Tacos 2 is located at 25750 Ecorse Road in Taylor. Business hours are Mondays–Fridays from 11 a.m.–8 p.m. and Saturdays from noon–8 p.m. The restaurant is closed on Sundays. To follow Alex Quinones' journey and stay updated on Detroit Loves Tacos 2, find them on TikTok, Instagram and Facebook@DetroitLovesTacos2.

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