



COMMUNITY CONNECTION

AUGUST 2025

VOL. 21 | ISSUE 8

YOUR CITY COUNCIL





MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

There are some exciting things happening on the roadways in Taylor! Construction on TH Johnson between Main Street and North Drive is well underway and is scheduled to wrap up before school starts later this month.

Work on Lake Drive between Main Street and Carlos G. Parker began at the end of July and is expected to be completed in early September. The entire roadway will be resurfaced and re-stripped, and curb ramps will be replaced to meet ADA compliance.

These projects are funded by the 2024 Infrastructure Bond, which also includes upcoming maintenance on Bill Pickett Trail and Mallard Lane. You can find more details later in this newsletter.

As I mentioned above, school is just around the corner! Our Parks and Recreation Department is once again hosting the annual Back to School Bash with a Movie in the Park on Friday, August 15 at Murphy Park. The fun starts at 5:30 p.m. with games, bounce houses, arts & crafts, and more. Then at dusk, everyone can enjoy a showing of "Transformers One."

I want to wish everyone an amazing first day of school—and of course... GO DUCKS!

Brian Laborde

CITY NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



New Library Director

The Taylor Public Library is pleased to welcome Amy Keyes as its new Library Director, succeeding Karen Ellis, who retired in May. Most recently, Ms. Keyes was Assistant Library Administrator for the Beaumont Public Library System and has also worked in libraries in Fort Worth, McKinney, and Lewisville.

[More About Amy Keyes](#)

Taylor on Foot

Our second Taylor on Foot community walking event took place on Saturday, July 26. Five teams, each led by a City Council member, visited 100 homes in District 4, answering residents' questions and listening to their concerns. The teams included city management, department directors, police officers, code enforcement, Taylor ISD, and the Greater Taylor Foundation.

[More About Taylor on Foot](#)



Lake Drive Public Meeting

A virtual public meeting about the road construction on Lake Drive from Main Street to Carlos G. Parker was held on July 18. The meeting included an overview of the project, a look at the construction timeline, and answers to frequently asked questions. The meeting was recorded and is available to view at any time.

[Watch The Meeting Here](#)

Fighting Mosquitos

Following a very rainy July, it's important to do your part to keep mosquitoes under control. Empty standing water around your home, check low spots in your yard, and clear out debris where water can collect. Reducing standing water means fewer breeding sites, which means fewer mosquito bites!

[More About Mosquito Risks](#)



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

WaterFest | July 17



Fire Truck Spray Down | July 24



TH JOHNSON DRIVE CONSTRUCTION

You may have noticed major road construction happening across the city—it's all part of the Taylor Streets Project, funded by the 2024 Infrastructure Bond.

TH Johnson Drive, between Main Street and North Drive, was the first of four streets selected for improvement under this initiative.

TH Johnson Drive was identified as a high-priority roadway in the 2024 Street Conditions Assessment. The project includes full-depth reclamation, resurfacing, and a new striping plan to improve safety and calm traffic.

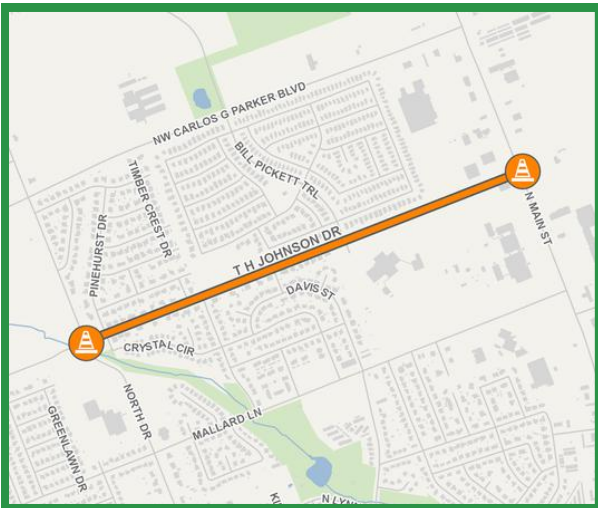


The entire section of roadway is receiving new paving, and striping improvements include a new center line as well as shoulders that can be used for parking or bicycles.

A 12-foot-wide turn lane is also being added in front of TH Johnson Elementary School.

Other upgrades will include replacing the curbs and construction of ADA-compliant ramps to improve mobility.

Construction on TH Johnson began in June and is scheduled to end by mid-August.



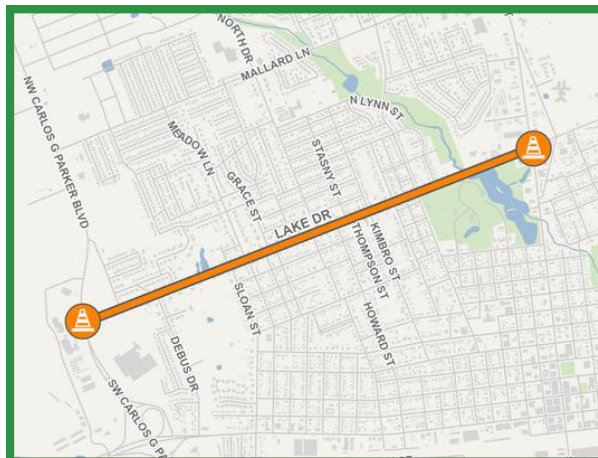
WEST LAKE DRIVE CONSTRUCTION

The second road to undergo improvements as part of the Taylor Streets Project is West Lake Drive, between Main Street and Carlos G. Parker Boulevard.

Like TH Johnson Drive, West Lake Drive was identified as a high-priority street in need of maintenance during the 2024 Street Conditions Assessment.

The project is funded by the 2024 Infrastructure Bond.

As part of this work, crews will conduct spot reclamation, and the entire roadway from Main Street to Carlos G. Parker will be resurfaced.



The project also includes restriping Lake Drive with a continuous centerline, along with curb enhancements and ADA-compliant sidewalk ramps.

Construction began in late July and is expected to wrap up in early September.

Next up in the Taylor Streets Project: Bill Pickett Trail (from Carlos G. Parker Boulevard to TH Johnson Drive) and Mallard Lane (from Carlos G. Parker to Main Street).

You can find updates on all road projects at the link below:

[CIP Dashboard](#)

CITY MEETINGS



12

Planning and Zoning Commission

6:00 PM | CITY HALL | 400 PORTER ST.

14

City Council Meeting

6:00 PM | CITY HALL | 400 PORTER ST

20

Parks and Recreation Board

6:00 PM | DICKEY GIVENS COMMUNITY CENTER | 1015 BLVD. MLK JR.

27

Public Arts Advisory Board

5:30 PM | CITY HALL | 400 PORTER ST.

28

City Council Meeting

6:00 PM | CITY HALL | 400 PORTER ST

AUGUST

A photograph of an outdoor community event. In the foreground, there are several tables covered with red and white checkered tablecloths, displaying various food items like bread and pastries. In the background, people are gathered around tables, some with signs like "TRICK or TREAT" and "More!". The scene is set in a paved area with buildings and trees in the distance.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

3

Watermelon Day

1:00 PM | HERITAGE SQUARE PARK

8

Pickleball Playday

10:00 AM | MURPHY PARK PICKLEBALL COURTS

9

Taylor Second Saturdays

ALL DAY | DOWNTOWN

9

Historic Downtown Walking Tour

10:00 AM | RIPPLE&ROSE CAFE | 700 W 6TH ST

14

Coffee With A Cop

8:30 AM | CURBSIDE COFFEE | 114 W 2ND ST

15

Back to School Bash with movie "Transformers One"

5:30 PM | MURPHY PARK PAVILION

PARKS EVENTS



Zumba

MONDAYS | 6:00 PM | MEMORIAL FIELDHOUSE | MURPHY PARK



Senior Fit

TUESDAYS | 10:30 AM | MEMORIAL FIELDHOUSE | MURPHY PARK



Pilates

TUESDAYS | 6:00 PM | MEMORIAL FIELDHOUSE | MURPHY PARK



Track Time

TUESDAYS | 6:30 PM | MEMORIAL FIELD TRACK



Walk 2 Run

TUESDAYS | 6:30 PM | MEMORIAL FIELD TRACK



Yoga

WEDNESDAYS | 6:30 PM | MEMORIAL FIELDHOUSE | MURPHY PARK



Butts 'N' Guts

THURSDAYS | 6:00 PM | MEMORIAL FIELDHOUSE | MURPHY PARK



Senior Fit

FRIDAYS | 11:00 AM | MEMORIAL FIELDHOUSE | MURPHY PARK

August Special Events

Adult Pickup Volleyball

SUNDAYS | AUG. 3, 10, 17 & 24 | 5:00 PM
TAYLOR MIDDLE SCHOOL

AUGUST

LIBRARY EVENTS

TAYLOR PUBLIC LIBRARY

2

Puzzle Swap

2:30 PM

11

Grief Support

6:30 PM

16

Mobile Planetarium

12:00 PM

20

Homeschool Social

12:00 PM

25

Grief Support

6:30 PM

WEEKLY

M

Chair Yoga

MONDAYS | 9:30 AM

T

Hooks and Needles

TUESDAYS | 9:00 AM

W

Senior Social

WEDNESDAYS | 2:00 PM

TH

Chair Yoga

THURSDAYS | 9:30 AM

TH

Chair Massage

THURSDAYS | 10:30 AM

COUNCIL CONNECTION

COUNCIL MEETING RECAP VIDEOS

The Council Connection video series provides a recap of what happened at each Council meeting. They are released within a week following each meeting.



July 10 Meeting

THE COUNCIL RECEIVED AN UPDATE FROM THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT ON APPRAISAL VALUES FOR THE COMING BUDGET YEAR, AND APPROVED PAYMENT FOR AN EMERGENCY REPAIR OF A WATER MAIN BREAK.



July 24 Meeting

COUNCIL APPROVED AN EMPLOYMENT CENTER PLAN FOR THE BLUEPRINT DATA CENTERS PROJECT AT 1601 MLK BLVD. AND RECEIVED AN UPDATE ON NEW LAWS FROM THE 89TH TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION THAT COULD AFFECT THE CITY, INCLUDING ONE THAT COULD REDUCE THE CITY'S PROPERTY TAX REVENUE BY \$1.5M.



View all past meetings at TaylorTX.gov/Videos

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SOCIAL MEDIA



The City of Taylor can be found on these social platforms.



VISIT HISTORIC DOWNTOWN

CITY OF TAYLOR COUNCIL



Left to Right: Greg Redden (District 1), Shelli Cobb (District 2), Mayor Dwayne Ariola (At-Large), Mayor Pro Tem Kelly Cmerek (District 3), Heather Long (District 4)