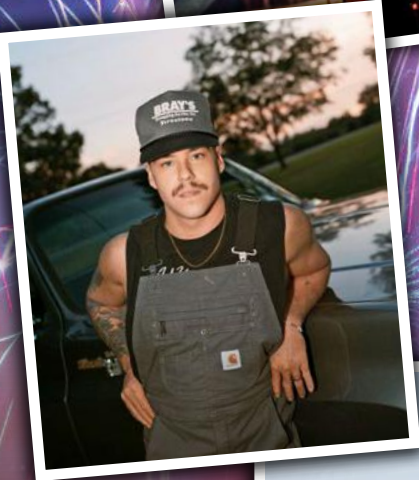




TAYLOR TODAY

APRIL 2026

VOL. 14 NO. 2



COUNTRY?

ROCK?

This year's summer festival will have a little of everything, from Chase Rice, Zach John King and Family Tradition Band to Badflower and Eva Under Fire. Don't forget the fireworks!



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FREE TICKET

DOWNRIVER HOME SHOW

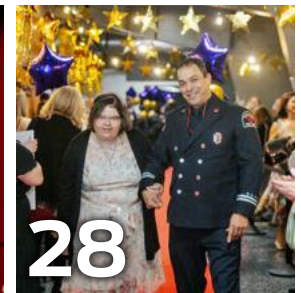
Saturday 11-4 | Sunday 12-4

PRESTIGE HALL

6600 Allen Rd., Allen Park, MI 48101

DownRiverHomeShow.com

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The renovations have started at the Lakes of Taylor (25505 Northline Road), continue through early June and restrict golfers to nine holes. Construction will shift to Taylor Meadows later in the year.
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Thanks to the appointment of new Judge Brittany Johnson, women now hold the top three judicial posts at the local courthouse.
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As libraries have changed, so have the needs of the communities they serve. The need for privacy in public libraries is critical to providing access to the information, connectivity, and resources people need.
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If you qualify and have a need, we have the right program for you.
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The organization distributed approximately 1.2 million pounds of food to 18,325 households in Taylor last year.
- 34** **The Wall That Heals**
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- 38** **Small Business Profile: Flamingo Brunch House**
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Community Publishing & Marketing
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To advertise in the next issue call Gina Guarisco at (734) 247-8032 or email gina@communitypublishing.com

From MAYOR WOOLLEY

In late February during the 2026 State of the City Luncheon hosted by the Rotary Club of Taylor, I announced that Kroger is putting a store in the south end of the City near Telegraph and Eureka roads.

Over the years, that plaza featured retailers like Value City Furniture, Hobby Lobby, Christmas Tree Shops, Spirit Halloween and JOANN Fabric and Crafts. An anchor store in that location, Bed, Bath & Beyond, closed its doors.

A new 100,000-square-foot Kroger "superstore" will arrive in that location soon. It recently passed approval by the Planning Commission. Kroger is not only adding a second location in the community, but it will occupy a vacant building in a key spot, which is always a plus.

Kroger will put a fueling station into that location, building it behind Fire Station #3. Included in the Kroger plans are a drive-thru pharmacy and a new road to the south that will connect to Pardee.



We can't be more excited about this news. Kroger's existing location in the north end of the City is always packed with customers, attracting not only Taylor shoppers but others from the surrounding communities like Dearborn, Dearborn Heights and Allen Park. It employs about 175 people. I believe – like Kroger does – that Taylor can easily support two of its stores.

Meanwhile, we celebrated the Kroger located at 7000 Monroe Blvd. near Ecorse Road in early March. Investments there have included a multi-million-dollar expansion, reorganization of the store and donations to a couple of key charity organizations in our community.

I attended with a large contingent from the City, members of Fish & Loaves Community Food Pantry and Gleaners Community Food Bank and various officials from Kroger.

During the brief ceremony, they presented \$5,000 donations to Fish & Loaves and Gleaners. Both charity organizations offer nutritious food and related resources to needy individuals in the Downriver region and elsewhere. Fish & Loaves, for instance, distributed 3.5 million pounds of food in 2025, nearly 1.2 million pounds to Taylor.

Stores like Kroger bring considerable investment in the community. We should be thankful every time a facility like that makes its home in Taylor.

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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 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

May – June



MAY

May 1 Law Day

23rd District Court
23365 Goddard
INFO: Touch-a-Truck, art contest and more (for school students by invitation only). The 2026 theme, as established by The American Bar Association, is "The Rule of Law and the American Dream," which recognizes that no one is above the law. This ensures the rights of people to live their lives as freely as possible and to pursue their dreams. Over 500 third graders from the Taylor School District will visit the court and take part in Law Day. More on Law Day is available at americanbar.org. NOTE: Court will be open to the public for regular business.

May 1

Night Golf Tournament

Taylor Meadows Golf Course
25360 Ecorse Road
INFO: Registration opens April 1, 2026. Call (734) 287-2100 for pricing and more information.

May 1-3

Grinder Hockey Tournament

Taylor Sportsplex
13333 Telegraph Road
INFO: Games played throughout these days. Free admission.



May 2

Oak Grove Cemetery Clean-Up

Burr Street, south of Van Born
10-noon
INFO: The annual "Cemetery Clean Up" volunteer effort hosted by Clerk Bower and the City of Taylor. Email cityclerk@cityoftaylormi.gov to sign up.

May 2

11th Annual Heritage Park Cleanup Day

Heritage Park
12111 Pardee
INFO: The annual Heritage Park Cleanup Day will begin at 9 a.m. and run for two hours. This will be the 11th annual cleanup day in Heritage Park. Anyone who enjoys Heritage Park is welcome to attend and participate. That includes individuals, civic and school organizations and even business groups. If you are planning on participating, please meet in the Pardee Road parking lot (in front of the Sheridan Center Open Air Pavilion) at 9 a.m. Dress appropriately. Heavy boots are recommended and gloves are a must. For more information, please call organizer Jim Taylor at (734) 666-8968.

May 7

National Day of Prayer Celebration

Noon-1 p.m.
Cameron Priebe Plaza, Taylor City Hall
23555 Goddard Road
INFO: Free. Public invited.

May 8-10

LCAHL Gauntlet Hockey Tournament (second weekend)

Taylor Sportsplex
13333 Telegraph Road
INFO: Tournament play throughout the weekend. Free admission.

May 9

Mothers Garden Party

Taylor Conservatory & Botanical Gardens
22314 Northline Road
INFO: Meet in the gardens for a Mother's Day brunch to celebrate the mom in your life. Mothers Garden Party will include a brunch, an opportunity to create a planter with your mother and a tour. Attendees will also get a first sneak peek of the annual spring plant sale and buy your plants early. Tickets will be released in March, follow on Facebook for announcements.

May 10

Mother's Day Brunch

Lakes of Taylor Golf Course
25505 Northline Road
INFO: Advance registrations required. Please call (734) 287-9001 for more information.

May 12

Jukebox Bingo

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

May 15-16

TSX Figure Skating Show

Taylor Sportsplex
13333 Telegraph Road
INFO: Show times are 7 p.m. Friday, and 1 and 7 p.m. Saturday. General admission \$10; VIP admission \$20.



**May 16
Armed Forces Day Celebration**

11 a.m.
Cameron Priebe Plaza, Taylor City Hall
23555 Goddard Road
INFO: Presented by the Taylor Veterans Museum. This is a salute to military veterans. The public is invited. Presentations and speeches, visit the museum afterward. (In case of poor weather, the event will be held inside City Hall.)

**May 16-17
Wild Weekend**

Heritage Park Petting Farm
12803 Pardee Road
INFO: Visit with exotic animals all weekend in addition to your regular friends at the petting farm. Event runs from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. both days. Tickets are \$5 per person with 1-year-olds and under free.

**May 16-17
Annual Spring Plant Sale**

Taylor Conservatory & Botanical Gardens
22314 Northline Road
INFO: Discover and purchase not-so-common annuals and perennials, plus delicious vegetable and herb plants, all lovingly nurtured by our amazing volunteers. Your purchases support the maintenance of our beautiful gardens. Bring a piece of the Conservatory home with you and make your garden bloom!

**May 19
Seniors Prom Dance**

Noon-3
William Ford Senior Activities Center
6750 Troy
INFO: Music and light refreshments. Call (313) 291-7740 for details.

**May 20
Taylor High School Farewell Parade**

Heritage Park
12111 Parade
INFO: Annual parade to honor the Taylor High School's Class of 2026 will be held at 5:30 p.m. Parade will enter the park at the Northline Road entrance and circle Greg Bzura Parkway. Heritage Park will be closed to the general public at 4 p.m. before reopening at approximately 6:30 p.m.



**May 22-31
Free Citywide Garage Sale**

INFO: The City of Taylor will again offer two free Citywide Garage Sale periods in 2026, the first May 22-31 and the second August 14-23. Each of these periods will enable participants to have two full weekends of garage sales, should weather be a problem during one of the weekends. No permit is required to hold your garage sale during these dates only.

**May 22
Splash Pad opens (limited basis)**

Heritage Park
12111 Pardee
INFO: Times, dates and prices to come as date nears. (Open Friday-Sunday until June 12 when it will open seven days a week)

**May 25
Memorial Day
(City Hall closed)**

**May 26
Seniors Monthly Birthday Bash & Karaoke**
Noon-2
William Ford Senior Activities Center
6750 Troy
INFO: Karaoke and cake.



**May 28
Taylor High School Graduation**

Taylor Sportsplex
13333 Telegraph Road
INFO: Program begins at 6 p.m. Tickets are available through the high school.

JUNE

**June 3
Westfield Preparatory High School Graduation**

Taylor Sportsplex
13333 Telegraph Road
INFO: Tickets available through Westfield Prep HS.

**June 3
15th Annual Music and Art in the Gardens**

Taylor Conservatory & Botanical Gardens
22314 Northline Road
5:30-8:30 p.m.
INFO: Enjoy Fire Lake, a Bob Seger tribute band. Tickets are \$5 per person at the gate. The annual Music & Art in the Gardens summer concert series is held on Wednesday evenings. Immerse yourself in live music surrounded by stunning garden scenery, local art displays and great community vibes. Season passes are also available to enjoy all nine concerts of the season.

**June 4
Annapolis High School Graduation**

Taylor Sportsplex
13333 Telegraph Road
INFO: Tickets available through Annapolis HS.

**June 6-7
Colonial Days**

Heritage Park
12111 Pardee Road
INFO: Colonial Days brings the 18th century to life with a weekend of reenactments, demonstrations, and hands-on experiences. Presented by the Taylor Historical Commission and Society, the event opens to the public on Saturday, June 6 (9 a.m. – 5 p.m.) and Sunday, June 7 (9 a.m. – 4 p.m.), with free admission for all visitors. Guests will have the chance to explore authentic 18th-century military and civilian camps, interact with reenactors and witness live demonstrations. Each day will kick off with Opening Colours and conclude with Closing Colours, offering a full spectrum of historical experiences. In addition to the reenactments, the Taylor Historical Commission and Historical Society will open several historic sites within the park.

**June 6
Touch a Truck**

Beacon Baptist Church
21721 Northline Road
INFO: Runs from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Presented by the Rotary Club of Taylor.

**June 7
27th Annual Ride for a Reason**

INFO: Dundee to Taylor motorcycle ride to benefit Penrickton Center for Blind Children. Ends with gathering at Motown Harley-Davidson, 14100 Telegraph Road. For details, click on penrickton.org/events.

**June 7
17th Annual Happy Soles 5K Supporting Fish & Loaves**

Heritage Park
12111 Pardee Road
INFO: Join us for a beautiful morning at Heritage Park for the in-person or virtual competition to benefit Fish & Loaves Community Food Pantry. Participants can walk, run or bike the course, taking steps against hunger. Visit flcfp.org/happysoles for more information.

Around continued on page 10

Around continued from page 9

June 7

Prince & Princess Kids Tea

Taylor Conservatory & Botanical Gardens

22314 Northline Road

INFO: Step into a storybook world where fairy tales come to life! The Prince & Princess Kids Tea invites families to an enchanting afternoon filled with sweet treats, royal fun and magical memories in the beautiful gardens of the Taylor Conservatory. Recommended for ages 5-8 years old.

June 9

Jukebox Bingo

Noon-2

William Ford Senior Activities Center
6750 Troy

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

June 10

Last Day of School

Taylor School District

INFO: Final day of classes for the 2025-26 school year.

June 10

15th Annual Music and Art in the Gardens

Taylor Conservatory & Botanical Gardens

22314 Northline Road

5:30-8:30 p.m.

INFO: Enjoy Kanin Wren and the Taylor Swift Experience. Tickets are \$5 per person at the gate. The annual Music & Art in the Gardens summer concert series is held on Wednesday evenings. Immerse yourself in live music surrounded by stunning garden scenery, local art displays and great community vibes. Season passes are also available to enjoy all nine concerts of the season.

June 12

Friday Family Fun Day

Noon-4 p.m.

Heritage Park Petting Farm

12803 Pardee Road

INFO: Taylor Parks & Recreation's summer series of Family Fun Days. Each event in the series includes the Taylor Made Market, food, kid's crafts, special children's character meet-and-greets and more. Admission is free.

June 12

Northwest Park Pool opens

6000 Duncan Street

INFO: Check for days and times as the pool season nears.

June 12

Splash Pad opens (seven days weekly)

Heritage Park

12111 Pardee



June 12

Golf and Beer Tasting

Taylor Meadows Golf Course

25360 Ecorse

INFO: Registration opens May 1, 2025. Call (734) 287-2100 for more information.

June 16

Movie in the Gardens

Taylor Conservatory & Botanical Gardens

22314 Northline Road

INFO: Experience the magic of Movie in the Gardens – an outdoor movie night beneath the stars. Bring your blankets and chairs, enjoy family-friendly films starting at 7:30 p.m., and take part in fun-themed activities for all ages. Popcorn and drinks will be available for purchase as you relax and enjoy a memorable evening in the gardens.



June 17

15th Annual Music and Art in the Gardens

Taylor Conservatory & Botanical Gardens

22314 Northline Road

5:30-8:30 p.m.

INFO: Enjoy The Ashley Lynn

Experience. Tickets are \$5 per person at the gate. The annual Music & Art in the Gardens summer concert series is held on Wednesday evenings. Immerse yourself in live music surrounded by stunning garden scenery, local art displays and great community vibes. Season passes are also available to enjoy all nine concerts of the season.

June 23

Seniors June Dance

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

William Ford Senior Activities Center
6750 Troy

INFO: Music and light refreshments. Call (313) 291-7740 for details.



June 25-28

Taylor Summer Festival

Heritage Park

12111 Pardee Road

INFO: Country artists Chase Rice, Zach John King and Family Tradition Band (June 26) are joined by rockers Badflower and Eva Under Fire, who have committed to the Saturday, June 27 rock concert. Enjoy days of carnivals, concerts, fireworks and more! Free fireworks will be held at dusk on Saturday, June 27. Click on taylorfestival.com for details and ticket information as the event nears.

June 30

Seniors Monthly Birthday Bash & Karaoke

Noon-2

William Ford Senior Activities Center
6750 Troy

INFO: Karaoke and cake.

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



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A: Of course there is help! More than likely, you are going to need to wear a special type of glasses that have telescopes in them for your outdoor adventures. The telescope will help you scan the outdoors and more richly appreciate colors. By magnifying with the eyeglass-mounted telescopes you will regain some of the detail you would otherwise miss. You did not mention driving, but many of our patients use telescopes to legally drive.

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TAYLOR SUMMER FESTIVAL

Badflower, Eva Under Fire to play June 27
after country bands scheduled June 26

FOR music lovers, the 2026 Taylor Summer Festival, presented by J&T Crova Towing and scheduled for June 25-28 at Heritage Park, is the place to be this year.

Promoters have rolled out rockers Badflower and Eva Under Fire to join the previously announced country acts Chase Rice, Zach John King and Family Tradition Band – making the festival a little bit country, a little bit rock ‘n roll, as Donnie and Marie Osmond used to sing.

Badflower headlines the Saturday, June 27 rock concert in the Sheridan Open Air Pavilion. The group will be joined by red-hot local band Eva Under Fire, which returns for the second straight year and fourth time overall. June 27 is fireworks night at the festival.

Ticket prices for the Saturday, June 27 rock show are \$35 advance stage-front seating (\$45 day of show, if still available) and \$25 advance GA standing room (\$35 day of show). Advance tickets will be available on universe.com ... and don't forget, that is fireworks night.

Badflower is a Los Angeles-bred and Nashville-based quartet made up of Josh Katz (lead singer/guitarist), Joey Morrow (lead guitar and back-up vocals), Alex Espiritu (bass) and Anthony Sonetti (drums).

This is a band that isn't afraid of making anyone uncomfortable, channeling stress, sleeplessness, sex, mania and much more into a rush of alternative anthems – several of which make up *This Is How The World Ends*, their second album.

That album was made up of singles like "Family", "Don't Hate Me", "Fukboi" and "Johnny Wants to Fight" and was elected by Loudwire as one of the Top 40 rock/metal albums of 2021. Two years before, Badflower released the album *OK, I'm Sick* made up of the songs like "Ghost", "a ANA x", "Heroin". "Promise Me" and "The Jester".

They released a third album, *No Place Like Home*, in 2025, that included "Detroit", "Haunting You", "London", "Paws: and "Snuff".

Badflower's evolution started over 15 years ago when Katz and Morrow met in Hollywood, moved in together and began writing songs. They eventually recruited Espiritu and Sonetti and played local LA shows before grabbing the attention of satellite radio



BADFLOWER



personality and NSYNC member Lance Bass. They had already cut the single "Soap" before eventually signing with John Varvatos/ Republic Records and dropping the band's debut EP, "Temper" (featuring "Animal"), earning Apple Music's artist of the week.

Eva Under Fire certainly didn't disappoint anyone during their headline performance at last year's summer festival. The group brought their red-hot alternate metal/hard rock/post grunge style to the stage to the delight of the crowd.

Led by the steamy voice of Taylor native Amanda Lyberg (aka Eva Marie), this group has been tearing it up over the past couple of years after being named as one of the "Artists to Watch" in 2023 by Pandora Radio. Their song "Blow" was ranked No. 11 on Mainstream Rock Airplay and No. 33 on Rock & Alternative Airplay.

Their album *Love, Drugs & Misery* came in at No. 99 on Top Current Album Sales. Eva is joined onstage by band members Rob Lyberg (lead guitar), Chris Slapnik (rhythm guitar), Ed Gawlik (bass) and Dave Miller II (drums).

The group recently released a new single, "Murder Scene" delving into the themes of anxiety, body image and betrayal, reflecting the band's struggles and the harsh realities of life on stage.

EVA UNDER FIRE

Festival continued on page 14

Taylor Summer Festival Highlights June 25-28 • Heritage Park

(Tentative and subject to change based on crowds and weather)

Thursday, June 25

- Taylor Summer Festival Carnival 3-10 p.m. No children under 17 without a responsible adult, Patrons will be subject to search. Backpacks and purses discouraged. All bad (including diaper bags) will be searched.

Friday, June 26

- Taylor Summer Festival Carnival 3-11 p.m. \$4 entry fee for anyone over 12. Under 12 and over 65 no entry fee. No children under 17 without a responsible adult, Patrons will be subject to search. Backpacks and purses discouraged. All bad (including diaper bags) will be searched.
- Taylor Summer Festival presents country recording artist CHASE RICE with special guest ZACH JOHN KING and FAMILY TRADITION BAND / Sheridan Pavilion / Gates Open at 6 p.m./ Ticket prices are \$40 advance seated (\$50 day of show) and \$30 advance general admission standing room (\$40 day of show) / No lawn chairs or coolers allowed inside the pavilion / Must have ID to purchase alcohol / No refunds.
- Parking inside and surrounding Heritage Park in the \$10 range.

Saturday, June 27 (fireworks night)

- Taylor Summer Festival Carnival 1-11 p.m. \$4 entry fee for anyone over 12. Under 12 and over 65 no entry fee. No children under 17 without a responsible adult, Patrons will be subject to search. Backpacks and purses discouraged. All bad (including diaper bags) will be searched.
- Taylor Summer Festival presents rock artists BADFLOWER with special guest EVA UNDER FIRE / Sheridan Pavilion / Gates Open at 6 p.m. / Ticket prices are \$35 advance stage-front seating (\$45 day of show, if still available) and \$25 advance GA standing room (\$35 day of show). / No lawn chairs or coolers allowed inside the pavilion / Must have ID for alcohol / No refunds.
- Free FIREWORKS DISPLAY at dusk.
- Parking inside and surrounding Heritage Park in the \$10 range.

Sunday, June 28

- Taylor Summer Festival Carnival 1-8 p.m. No children under 17 without a responsible adult, Patrons will be subject to search. Backpacks and purses discouraged. All bad (including diaper bags) will be searched.
- Note: If weather postpones the Saturday night fireworks, they will be held at approximately 10 p.m. Sunday, June 28.

Carnival: There is a \$4 entry fee for anyone over 12 on June 26 and 27. Under 12 and over 65 no entry fee. No children under 17 without a responsible adult, Patrons will be subject to search. Backpacks and purses discouraged. All bags (including diaper bags) will be searched. More restrictions may apply. Please check with the carnival vendor. More information can be found at elliottsamusement.com as the festival date nears.

Parking: Vehicle parking will be available both inside and outside of Heritage Park in the \$10 range. Expanded official festival parking will be located inside the park through the Northline Road entrance. Other private paid parking will be available in the surrounding areas.

One-side street parking will be posted on the following city streets during the festival: Brest, Clinton, W. Keyes, Moran, Klebba, Phyllis, Livingston, Ernst, Ran, Birch, Morley, Maplelawn, Goldenridge, Lincoln, McKinley, Beechwood, Katherine, Dudley, William, Baraga and Mortenvew. Violators will be ticketed and towed, according to the following guidelines:

Adjacent Street Restrictions: To facilitate vehicular movement and to promote public safety, the City of Taylor Police Department enacts the following Michigan Motor Vehicle Code provision adopted through City Ordinance 48-19 effective 10 a.m. June 27 through 2 a.m. June 28, 2024.

257.602 Compliance with order or direction of police officer.

A person shall not refuse to comply with a lawful order or direction of a police officer when that officer, for public interest and safety, is guiding, directing, controlling, or regulating traffic on the highways of this state.

Please Note: Pardee Road will be closed between Northline and Goddard at approximately 7 p.m. Saturday, June 27 (fireworks night). All side streets feeding Pardee will also be closed. Residents on Pardee Road must be at their residence by 7 p.m. They will not be allowed entrance to Pardee unless they provide identification and it is of an emergency nature. Public safety to pedestrian traffic takes precedence over convenience.



Festival continued from page 13

The country concert will be held on Friday, June 26 in the Sheridan Center Open Air Pavilion. Rice will headline that concert. Rice will be joined by up-and-coming country star Zach John King, along with the Family Tradition Band, a popular local band.

Ticket prices for the Friday, June 26 country show are \$40 advance stage-front seating (\$50 day of show, if still available) and \$30 advance GA standing room (\$40 day of show). Advance tickets will be available on universe.com.

Chase Rice's resume includes playing Division 1 college football as a linebacker at the University of North Carolina with pro potential, working as a NASCAR crew member and ultimately rising to fame as a country music star. On his newest album *Eldora*, the singer/songwriter's instincts point deep into the creative wilderness and untamed authenticity of the American West. Written in a Colorado cabin and inspired by a hidden, mountainside town, the 12 songs on *Eldora* represent the rawest, most unguarded expression of Rice's talent to date.

Rice first burst onto the country scene with "Cruise". That went on to become 10x Platinum, with hits like "Drinkin' Beer. Talkin' God. Amen." and "Eyes On You" notching No. 1s on Country Radio. He's booked sold-out international tours and shared stadium stages with Garth Brooks and Kenny Chesney while racking up more than 3 billion streams in total.

Sony Music Nashville artist and rising star Zach John King will also be onstage June 26. Raised in Fayetteville, Georgia, King comes from a family of poets and began as a lyricist. Inspired by a wide range of artists – George Jones and Otis Redding to The Police, Third Eye Blind,

Switchfoot and Biz Markie – King fronted an Indie-rock band in college before making the move to Nashville in 2021.

His first solo track came in 2023, titled "Just Missed You". A series of independent singles followed before King's 2024 breakout single, "Wannabe Cowboy," which earned 3.4M streams worldwide. King kicked off last summer with the release of his EP *Slow Down*. The project followed the success of its title track, "Slow Down," which earned 5 million global streams and landed placements on Spotify's "Hot Country" playlist and Apple Music's "Today's Country" playlist, among others.

Opening the country concert at the summer festival will be Family Tradition Band, which has been making waves on the local scene since their formation in 2015. It features a talented lineup including Randy Badour on lead vocals and acoustic guitar and Kyle Andrew on lead guitar and vocals, among others. The group is characterized by a mix of classic country, southern rock and contemporary country. Its authentic sound comes through an incorporation of traditional instruments like the fiddle, banjo and pedal steel guitar.

Family Tradition Band has been awarded "Best Band" by Hour Detroit Magazine and "Best Country Band" by Review Magazine multiple times.

The Taylor Summer Festival offers days of carnivals, concerts, free fireworks and more. Current sponsors joining J&T Crova Towing are Taylor Ford, General RV Center, Al's Asphalt and Recoil Firearms (with more to be added). Click on taylorfestival.com for details and ticket information.

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Improvements on the Way

Taylor Golf renovations focus on bunkers, tees, driving range and bridges

IT'S not unusual to talk about golf this time of year. Lakes of Taylor and Taylor Meadows, the community's two municipally owned courses, opened last month. But the real news is that both courses will undergo major renovations this year.

The renovations have started at the Lakes of Taylor (25505 Northline Road), continue through early June and restrict golfers to nine holes. The renovations focus on bunkers, adding new tee locations, a new driving range, bridge

rehabilitation and remediation of the Frank & Poet Drain.

All new sand bunkers will include:

- Re-shaping bunkers.
- New bunker liners.
- All new sand.

Addition of new forward and back tees:

- Forward tees will appeal to junior golfers and those looking to play a shorter/less difficult golf course.
- The addition of some new back tees will add more of a challenge for players looking to test their game against a longer golf course.

Brand new driving range:

- The driving range will exist in the same location, but the hitting area will be expanded, re-seeded and leveled. There will be new inground hitting mats and pavers.

Bridge improvements:

- Refinishing the wood bridges with composite decking and a clean finish on the canopies.

Frank & Poet Drain remediation:

- New pipes are being installed for better water drainage and retention.

The renovations will shift to Taylor Meadows (25360 Ecorse Road) from mid-August to November.

All new sand bunkers will include:

- Re-shaping bunkers.
- New bunker liners.
- All new sand.



Addition of new forward tees:

- Forward tees will appeal to junior golfers and those looking to play a shorter/less difficult golf course.

Pond excavation between holes No. 1 and 9:

- There will be a pond expansion project that will have a major impact on aesthetics, drainage, and irrigation.

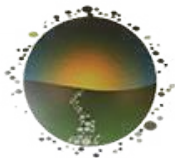
Taylor Golf is coming off another highly successful winter season. The department has added brand new golf simulator hardware at Taylor Meadows. All the screens, enclosures, hitting mats and projectors were updated using the best materials on the market. Taylor Meadows still uses the accurate Trackman launch monitors paired with the leading software.

Taylor's golf courses were designed by the famous American golf designer Arthur Hills, who designed over 200 courses around the world. Hills' firm, Arthur Hills/ Steve Forrest and Associates, 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.

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



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Our individualized approach to student learning opens the doors for students to follow their inner guidance, **direct their own learning and embrace a holistic learning environment.**

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The Montessori Method believes that students learn best when they have creative freedom. This means we encourage our students to choose the workspace that best aids in learning, whether it be on the floor, at a table, or on a beanbag.

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Q: Should my pet be vaccinated?

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Q: Should my pet be on heartworm, flea, and tick prevention year round?

A: In today's changing environment, parasites like heartworm and ticks are a year-round concern in many areas. Heartworms are parasites that live in your pet's heart and ticks can carry multiple diseases that can be transmitted to humans. Your veterinarian can help determine which preventive treatments are the best option for your pet. Taking a proactive approach to your pet's health makes all the difference.

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The New 23rd District Court

Top three judicial positions now held by women for the first time in history

WHEN Brittany Johnson was appointed to the bench last month, it completed something that hasn't happened before in the history of Taylor's 23rd District Court: All three top judicial posts at the courthouse are filled by women.

Johnson has been appointed as the court's newest judge. Britney Carmona was named as the district court's magistrate in August 2025. Chief Judge Victoria Shackelford – the first woman ever to hold a judge's position in Taylor – was first appointed to the bench in September 2021 to fill the vacancy of longtime Judge Geno Salomone, who retired. Shackelford has since won reelection each time.

New Judge Johnson is a former assistant prosecutor for Wayne County. She was named to fill a vacancy created when former Judge Joseph Slaven resigned while under two different investigations for questionable conduct. She was sworn into office by Judge Shackelford on March 14 and started the job on Monday, March 16.

Governor Gretchen Whitmer appointed Johnson, and the Michigan Supreme Court confirmed the appointment. Whitmer was quoted as saying:

"... I am proud to appoint Brittany Johnson to the bench. As a skilled legal professional, Brittany brings years of experience to her new role. I am confident she will serve the people of Michigan admirably and uphold the rule of law."

The appointment fills former Judge Slaven's current term, which expires on January 1, 2027.

Judge Johnson becomes only the sixth person overall to serve on the court. That list of judges includes Anthony Nicita, the late William Sutherland, Geno Salomone, Slaven and current Chief Judge Victoria Shackelford.

A resident of Taylor, Judge Johnson has been serving as an assistant prosecuting attorney with the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office since 2019. She was previously a law clerk in Dearborn and a legislative extern for the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan.

She also serves as a board member at the Government Bar Association.

She holds a law degree from the Michigan State University College of Law, along with a Master of Social Work from MSU and a Bachelor of Science in psychology

and criminal justice from Grand Valley State University.

Magistrate Britney Carmona is a native of Taylor who has worked her way up the legal ladder.

"I went to Wareing Elementary, Hoover Middle School, and then graduated from Truman in 2007," she said. "I played softball for Taylor Northwest my entire life and was a part of the 2006 team that won the state championship with Jennifer Hall as a coach. My parents were employees of the Taylor School District as school bus drivers and maintenance personnel their entire careers (Rick and Joyce Giraud)."

She is a member of the Taylor Community Library Board, volunteers at the Taylor Conservatory & Botanical Gardens and even has two rescue dogs from the Taylor Animal Shelter, Bulleit and Barley.

She first worked at 23rd District Court as a cashier before going to law school ... and now has completed the circle. In addition to the 23rd District Court, she's held positions at the 20th (Dearborn Heights) and 44th (Royal Oak) district courts. She also worked for three different law firms and the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office before landing back at the 23rd District Court.

Former Judge Slaven's departure from the bench ends a controversial period in Taylor court history. First elected to the bench in January 2015, he

eventually faced charges through the City of Taylor's Board of Ethics while also facing a lengthy misconduct investigation by the Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission.

He eventually resigned as the JTC investigation was concluding. Since he resigned days before a tenure commission hearing, the hearing officer assumed the allegations against him were valid and recommended to the Michigan Supreme Court that he be banned from holding any judicial office for six years. As of this printing, that request is pending.

The Taylor Board of Ethics admonished him for specific violations of the law and filed its report with the City Council and the state Attorney General's Office.



New Judge Brittany Johnson (left) and Magistrate Britney Carmona (right) with Chief Victoria Shackelford in the second-floor library at the 23rd District Court. This year marks the first time that both judgeships and the magistrate posts have been held by women in the history of the court.

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Study Pods

Taylor Community Library adds 'silent labs' for those seeking a quieter environment

VISITORS to the Taylor Community Library have longed for study rooms or "silent labs". Their requests have finally been answered.

The library has installed four private study pods by Pillar Designs LLC. Two of the pods can accommodate up to two individuals, while the two single-user pods are Americans with Disability Act (ADA) accessible. They are separated into Study Pod A and Study Pod B (both in the Adult Department), along with Study Pod C (Adult Department, Wheelchair and Accessible) and Study Pod D (Youth Department, Wheelchair Accessible)

"We have had a 10-year demand for study rooms or silent labs, and this has helped tremendously especially for those who are seeking a nice environment that accommodates their educational needs," Library Director Devon Harris said. "So far we have had a large number of college students and library regulars reserving the space."

On a weekly basis Harris predicted 50 to 60 people would come to study at the library.

"Our study pods provide an inclusive environment for students and patrons alike to fully engage in whatever creative activity they have without being distracted by the library's daily flow and activities," he said.

Other organizations have had great success with Pillar study pods. The Vernon Area Public Library of Lincolnshire, IL is a good example. It serves a diverse community of approximately 44,000 people. Library Director Anne Rasmussen recognized the growing demand for private spaces. The library's two existing study rooms were consistently booked solid, indicating a clear need for additional private areas.

The pods were a welcome addition, providing private spaces for patrons who needed to focus on their work or make phone or Zoom calls without being disturbed. The

open design of the library, with its large, communal areas, made it difficult to offer quiet spaces.

Stephen Territo, head of Library Operations, said the booths helped to mitigate these challenges: "The open areas of the library present their own challenges with sound. The booths give us an opportunity to provide quiet spaces in this big, open-air floor plan. They really

help us provide a variety of environments for whatever a patron might need."

Like Taylor, the Vernon Area Public Library installed both one- and two-person pods.

They installed a two-person pod in a children's area, which serves a variety of functions.

"There's a good mix of usage types for the two-person booth," Territo explained. "We see tutoring sessions, kids working together on homework, and children just using the space for reading or playing." Meanwhile, the one-person booth, located near the main entrance and cafe area, is mostly used by adults and teens for phone calls and Zoom meetings.

The one-person booth also addressed another critical need: providing a

designated area for phone calls. Territo explained that they didn't have a place for people to take a personal phone call. And so oftentimes, they have people speaking on their phone loudly in the middle of the library, which is disturbing to others.

"Patron privacy is important, so it's great to give staff an opportunity to direct people who need to make a phone call where they can have that conversation out of earshot of others," Rasmussen added.

Why not try out Taylor's new library study pods? The library is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and from 10 a.m. through 6 p.m. on Fridays and Saturday. It is closed on Sundays. For more information, call (734) 287-4840.



SCHOOL FOUNDATION WALL OF FAME

Dedicated pair to be honored during the second annual presentation this month

THE Taylor Public School Foundation for Educational Excellence will be honoring Ken Nelson and Caroline Patts when it hosts its second annual Wall of Fame Gala on Friday April 26 at the Lakes of Taylor Golf Club.

The purpose of the Wall of Fame Gala is to honor individuals who have made a significant contribution to the Taylor School District and/or the students of the district. Last year, the foundation honored longtime school administrator John Pantalone and late Loren Ristovski, former school athletic director.

In addition to Nelson and Patts, the foundation will also recognize James Moore this year.

The evening will also include entertainment from the West Middle School Jazz Band. They played at the event last year and were a big hit for those who attended.

Tickets and more information are available on the foundation web page at taylorschoolsfoundation.org (go to "events" and search for the Wall of Fame Gala event).

Ken Nelson

started his career in the Taylor School District in 1959, when he taught at the Taylor Junior High School and Blake Junior High School. He taught both Social Studies and English.

He also taught at Kennedy High School and later served as the



assistant principal in the district for 12 years. Nelson retired from the district in 1998 and eventually joined the foundation.

For 10 years he led the organization's scholarship program that honored hundreds of Taylor graduates. Last year, for instance, the foundation's scholarship program honored over 30 students with tens of thousands of dollars in grants.

For years, Nelson was the master of ceremonies over that event and still takes part. Pantalone hands out his own "John Pantalone Awards for Teachers and Trades." After handing out her own scholarship for several years, Patts awarded the Alumni Association awards last year to a pair of deserving college-bound seniors.

Caroline Patts

was and still is a positive influence on the Taylor School District and the greater community. She spent 32 years in the school district as a library paraprofessional.

In the process she modernized the library at Randall Elementary by introducing an automated catalogue system. She has been a member of the Taylor Education Foundation Board for 14 years and a Taylor City Council member for four years.

She continues to remain active in the community through her involvement with the Taylor Historical Society and the Taylor Historical Museum.



The Taylor Public School Education Foundation for Educational Excellence is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Its mission is to support the first-class educational programs that enhance student achievement.

All funds generated through fund raisers, the Wall of Fame Gala and the annual Dueling Pianos event are directed to help finance programs in the classrooms and schools that are not budgeted by the district. For those interested in becoming involved with the Foundation contact the organization through taylorfoundation@taylorschools.net. Meetings alternate each month on the second Thursday of the month at 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. The meetings are held in the Taylor School District Administration Building on Pine Street.

The honorees were selected from a group of nominations from the school district and the Taylor community at large.

The nomination process opened in September 2025 and closed on February 20, 2026. Once the nomination application process was closed, a committee met to select the honorees. The selection committee consisted of members of the Foundation's board, the Taylor School Board of Education and the district's administration.



Helping Homeowners

Community Development will help again with federal rehab loan program

THE Community Development Home Rehabilitation Program is a voluntary, zero percent interest deferred loan program that is available to eligible low- and moderate-income households for home repairs.

Since the 1980s, this program has helped hundreds of Taylor homeowners with much needed home improvement projects. During 2025, the City completed eight (8) projects including emergency sewer repair, emergency furnace installation and roof/gutter/siding/window replacement totaling over \$100,000 in federal Community Development Block Grant funding assistance.



6. Have no outstanding code violations preventing occupancy to the home



There are four types of repairs allowed under the home rehabilitation program:

1. Emergency or health and safety repairs (HVAC, hot water heaters, roofs, sewers)
2. Energy efficiency improvements (doors, windows)
3. Weatherization (insulation)
4. ADA accessibility issues



Program guidelines

To fund the repairs, a zero percent interest deferred loan is granted. A lien is placed on the home in the amount of the loan, and the loan becomes due upon any action that changes the home's ownership, such as the following:

- The homeowner/occupant/applicant converts the worked-on home to a rental unit
- The homeowner/occupant/applicant sells the home, cash-out refinances or passes away

City of Taylor residents must meet the following criteria to apply:

1. Own and occupy their home
2. Meet income and all other eligibility requirements
3. Are up to date on all city and county taxes, water bills and assessments
4. Have homeowner's insurance
5. Do not own more than one home

NOTE: Cosmetic repairs, additions, detached structures and modernization do not qualify for this program

Application process

Applicants must meet rehabilitation program eligibility requirements in order to qualify for this program. These requirements are subject to change at any time and include but are not limited to;

- Applicant must provide all documentation required in the rehabilitation program application. (Applications with missing information will not be accepted.)
- Applicants must provide copies of all documents required in the application.
- If there is no follow-up or communication from the

2025/2026 Income Limits*

HUD 2025 INCOME LIMITS	1 PERSON	2 PERSON	3 PERSON	4 PERSON	5 PERSON	6 PERSON	7 PERSON	8 PERSON
EXTREMELY LOW INCOME	21250	24250	27300	32150	37650	43150	48650	54150
VERY LOW INCOME 50%	35350	40400	45450	50500	54550	58600	62650	66700
LOW INCOME 80%	56600	64650	72750	80800	87300	93750	100200	106700

*Amounts are updated annually by HUD

applicant after 90 days from the date of submission, the application is canceled and the applicant must re-apply.

Income eligibility guidelines

Household income eligibility is determined by totaling the adjusted gross income of all household occupants who are not full-time students and older than 18 years of age. To qualify, the total household income must not exceed the 80 percent low-income amount.

Loan limits

Under HUD regulations, only substantial improvements are permitted for properties located in the 100-Year Floodplain Zone. These loans are not to exceed 50 percent of the market value of the property, as determined by the current State Equalized Value (SEV). There are no exceptions.

For properties not located in the 100-Year Floodplain Zone, loans are not to exceed 50 percent of the market value of the property, as determined by the current State Equalized Value (SEV). Exceptions will only be made for unforeseen code violations and emergency or discovery items and must be verified by an official building inspector and approved as a change order by the Community

Development Department and the City Council.

This program is funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant program as part of their mission to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all.

For more information about the Rehabilitation Program or to request an application, please contact the City of Taylor's Community Development Department by using the following:

- **IN PERSON OR BY MAIL:** 23555 Goddard Rd. Taylor, MI 48180.
- **BY PHONE:** (734) 287-6550
- **BY EMAIL:** cklimchalk@ci.taylor.mi.us
- **ONLINE:** By using the QR code.



PLEASE NOTE: The City reserves the right to change, update or modify this program at any time. This is a voluntary loan program. This is not a "quick" program. Home rehabilitation projects can take four to six months or longer to complete due to factors including but not limited to application review, eligibility approval, available funding, environmental review, weather, change orders and unforeseen delays.

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Night to Shine

City employees, others enjoy making an evening special for those less fortunate

FOR Bianca Williams, manager at Texas Roadhouse and a single mother of three young children, it's her favorite annual event. For others, it ranges from an evening of joy and gratitude to the prom dance that they may never have attended.

For the record, it is called the "Night to Shine" held locally by the 242 Church on Eureka Road. Created by the Tim Tebow Foundation, the "Night to Shine" is held at hundreds of locations, from Kirkland, Washington to Gainesville, Florida.

Scheduled for early February, the night aims to give people with special needs ages 14 and older an unforgettable evening in the spotlight. The 12th annual celebration brought thousands around the world together to honor those with disabilities.

Among volunteers were Taylor elected officials, employees and department heads, police officers, firefighters and in Bianca's case, the manager at a popular restaurant. Like Bianca, many who participated were "buddies" assigned to specific honorees ... they make up couples for the big dance.

"This was my second time volunteering as a buddy and it remains my favorite event," she said.



"The way our community comes together to ensure every honored guest experiences a truly

memorable evening is nothing short of incredible. It is a heartwarming experience to watch guests arrive and be transformed — getting all dolled up by beauticians, glowing with excitement as they enjoy dancing, karaoke, bowling, balloon art, and temporary tattoos. Every detail is thoughtfully planned to make them feel celebrated."





All Night to Shine events include:

- Red carpet entrance with paparazzi.
- Hair and makeup stations.
- Limousine rides.
- Corsages, boutonnieres, and gifts.
- Catered dinner and dancing.
- Crowning ceremony for every guest as a King or Queen.
- Sensory and respite rooms for guests and caregivers.

The event is free for attendees with special needs. Volunteers from the community help create a memorable experience.

"I volunteered as a buddy and it was truly a wonderful evening," said Gerald Thomas, a member of City Council. "I was originally asked to serve as a photographer, but I wanted to become more personally involved. During a council meeting (City Clerk) Cindy Bower shared information about the event and noted that the organizers were seeking volunteers to serve as buddies.

"My special guest, Lauren, is autistic and for the most part nonverbal. She was incredibly sweet and made the night even more meaningful. Lauren, like me, is a bit of a foodie, so we got along just great. The event was also special because the parents were able to enjoy a well-deserved break while receiving VIP treatment."

Councilman Bill Patts attended with his wife, former council member Caroline. It was the first time they participated. Bill's partner was Michelle while Caroline brought Vicki.

"We loved it," Caroline said. "We got a great feeling helping someone who might need assistance or not. Our buddies were able to get up on their own and dance, eat, and talk. Some others were wheelchair bound or couldn't speak.

"It was a night to celebrate them and give their caregivers a break," she continued. "Our buddies both danced a lot. I know Bill isn't a big dancer, but he was on the dance floor the whole time (with) Michelle. Our buddies were crowned for the evening and celebrated the Night to Shine along with everyone else. We were glad to be a part of (the) event. The smiles made it all worthwhile."

Members of the police and fire department are not assigned to specific individuals, according to Deputy Police Chief Mike Lividini. "They walk everyone down the red carpet and then they just join in the fun throughout the night," he said.

Interested in getting involved? The next Night to Shine is scheduled for February 12, 2027. For more information, click on the Night to Shine – 242 Community Church page on Facebook, 242community.com or timtebowfoundation.org.



'Accepted and Cared For'

Success Virtual Learning Center offers flexible options for Downriver students

By Kelsi Klein

SUCCESS Virtual Learning Centers of Michigan's Downriver location in Taylor continues to provide an alternative path for high school students, offering flexible, personalized education options designed to meet a wide range of academic needs.

Open to all students

While the Downriver location is physically located in Taylor, enrollment is not limited to those within the Taylor School District boundary.

"We want families to know we're available to all Downriver students," said Lynne Nowicki, center director. "You don't have to go through an out-of-district process to attend."

Success Virtual Learning Center reviews expelled or long-term suspension students for acceptance and all students with an IEP or 504 plan. Their vision is to "be a place where every student, regardless of their past, feels 100 percent accepted and cared for."

How it works

Success Virtual Learning Centers of Michigan was designed to be a non-traditional education option for students ages 14-21 who may not thrive in a traditional classroom setting.

With 10 locations across the state, these centers have helped thousands of students stay on track academically and graduate at their own pace with individualized support.

The accredited, tuition-free public school provides students with a flexible way to complete high school courses, and is an 18-credit Michigan Merit Curriculum only program without elective requirements.

Each student receives a customized learning plan tailored to their goals, schedule and academic standing. Certified teachers are available for one-on-one assistance, both in person at the center and virtually, ensuring students have consistent guidance throughout their coursework.

Online learning extras

Opportunities for hands-on experiences through mentorships, field trips, clubs, career fairs and extracurricular activities are also provided to students who choose to be more involved.

Different levels of support are available to students as needed, including social work, counseling, social and emotional programming, intervention services, special

education services, career advisors and much more.

Beyond academics, Success Virtual Learning Center also provides incentives for student success. Those in good academic standing may be eligible for free driver's training, an additional benefit meant to help support students both in and out of the classroom.



SUCCESS
VIRTUAL LEARNING
Centers of Michigan



Credit recovery

In addition to standard school-year programming, Success Virtual Learning Centers of Michigan offers a free summer credit recovery program.

"We specialize in helping students who are behind in credits or potentially unable to graduate on time to graduate on time or as close to it as possible," Nowicki said. "We're a good fit for kids who just don't fit the mold of regular school."

Open to both enrolled students and those attending local districts with counselor approval, the six-week program provides an opportunity to catch up or get ahead without the financial burden of traditional summer school.

Families interested in enrolling can visit the Downriver center at 24680 Eureka Road in Taylor from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m., call (734) 992-6914 or visit www.successmichigan.org for more information.



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Providing for the Disadvantaged

Downriver Fish & Loaves continues to deliver food for those who need it most

THE Downriver Fish & Loaves Food Pantry continues to have a huge positive impact on the Downriver region, according to Executive Director Stephanie McNees, who spoke to the City Council last month.

The 501(c)3 nonprofit organization has been “ensuring no one goes hungry” in the area since 2008. Fish & Loaves optimizes the client-choice pantry and drive-thru distribution model to provide a wide variety of nutritious and sustaining food options for families and individuals in need, according to McNees’s presentation.

Located at 25670 Northline Road in Taylor, the pantry acts like a small grocery store, where the needy can go in and make the choices they prefer. The distribution center depends on dedicated volunteers (McNees is the only full-time employee) and donors and partners.

The client-choice pantry adjoins the new Gleaners Food Bank warehouse and is open Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesday and Fridays. The Fish & Loaves program also runs the very popular produce-dominated “Fresh Market Saturdays” on the weekends.

The Fresh Market program provides 25 pounds of fresh produce and a gallon of milk to anyone in need each weekend. On average, 850 families were served per weekend last year.

Taylor is a heavy benefactor of the program. “Everyone’s numbers pale in comparison to Taylor,” she told the council. “We’re the largest community choice food pantry in the state.”

Fish & Loaves distributed approximately 1.2 million pounds of food to 18,325 households in Taylor last year. As McNees noted, others did pale in comparison: Allen Park (approximately 92,000 pounds across nearly 1,200 households), Brownstown (134,000 pounds/1,900 households), Dearborn Heights (317,000/5,000), Romulus (2349,000/4,800), Southgate (166,000/2,300) and Woodhaven (34,000/432).



Taylor residents account for 41 percent of those served and 34 percent of all food distributed.

Overall, Fish & Loaves distributed 3.5M pounds of food in 2025, serving 45,808 households. It also served 90,578 individuals.

But those numbers aren’t easily reached.

Through its partnership with Gleaners, Fish & Loaves purchases food at discount prices. Overall, its purchases average 67 cents per pound. And none of this is possible without a large group of volunteers who worked approximately 25,000 hours in 2025.

Fish & Loaves offers an entire slate of sponsorship

packages, from music bingo to a 250 Club Raffle, Happy Soles 5K Run/Walk, Par for the Course Golf Outing and, of course, Santa’s Magic Forest. All of these are listed on its website (flcfp.org) under events.

Santa’s Magic Forest, widely known as Downriver’s best indoor holiday display, hosted approximately 4,000 visitors and earned approximately \$30,000 in 2025. It was the event’s first year being hosted by the Taylor School District in the old Eureka Heights

Elementary School on Eureka Road, west of Telegraph.

“And I’m happy to say that we’ve confirmed that we’ll remain there in 2026, too,” McNees said recently. “The building worked out very well for the display, especially the way we were able to use some of the classroom space.”

To volunteer at Fish & Loaves, visit flcfp.org to register or contact volunteer@flcfp.org. Individuals, families, companies and/or organizations can become volunteers.

To become a donor, you have options including becoming a monthly donor by sponsoring an event. Again, contact the organization at flcfp.org or email smcnees@flcfp.org.

Lastly, Fish & Loaves welcomes organized food drives. To organize a food drive, visit flcfp.org or contact bcoper@flcfp.org.



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The Wall That Heals

Traveling memorial to those lost in Vietnam coming to Heritage Park in August

FOR Dennis Schlemmer, like many others of his age and older, the Vietnam War was personal. Dennis' late father, also named Dennis, served in the 864th Engineer Battalion in Vietnam from 1968-70. "His service instilled in me a deep respect for those who served during that era," he said.

Schlemmer's father passed away in 2023. He was later inducted into the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's In Memory Program, which honors Vietnam veterans who returned home but have since passed away from effects of the war. Through that experience, Dennis became more connected to the work of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and learned about The Wall That Heals.



"The opportunity to help bring this powerful traveling exhibit to our community felt like a meaningful way to honor my father and all who served during the Vietnam War," he said.

The Wall That Heals is a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial located in Washington, D.C. 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. The VVMF also hosts In Memory Weekend over Father's Day, honoring those who served in the Vietnam War and later returned, but died because of their service.



Several heroes from Taylor will be inducted this year, including Roger Belcher, father of former City Councilperson and Volunteer Coordinator for The Wall That Heals, Angie Winton.

The Wall That Heals 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. It will be located at the north end of Heritage Park near the soccer fields, an area where the city previously held outdoor concerts during the summer festival. The location will allow visitors to easily access the Wall while the Junior League World Series is taking place elsewhere in the park (the 44th Annual JLWS will take place from August 9-16 this summer).

With the JLWS taking place at Heritage Park at the same time and Taylor's proximity to Detroit and the rest of the metro area, Schlemmer expects crowds to exceed 10,000 for The Wall That Heals.

A lifelong resident of Taylor, Schlemmer has been involved in supporting veterans and preserving

Vietnam War and is on the Board of Directors for the National Vietnam War Museum in Weatherford, Texas.

"When we began planning to bring The Wall That Heals to Downriver, I focused on building a strong leadership team first," he said. "I reached out to people I personally knew to be go-getters and achievers, along with respected members of the Downriver community who have strong reputations for getting things done. We assembled an outstanding group of committee chairs who immediately went to work organizing the many aspects of the event. While all the chair positions are now filled, we continue to welcome additional committee members as people in the community express interest in helping. It has truly become a community effort."

The group expects to fill around 300 four-hour volunteer shifts throughout the event. Volunteers must be 18 or older, though those 16 and up may volunteer if accompanied by an adult.

Volunteers will assist in a variety of important roles, including staffing the information tent, leading tours, helping visitors locate names on The Wall, assisting guests in the Mobile Education Center, helping with

parking, serving as golf cart drivers and supporting the set-up and tear-down of The Wall.

"Every role helps ensure visitors have a meaningful and respectful experience," he said.



To help bring The Wall That Heals to Taylor, the group is placing donation collection boxes in local restaurants and retailers. Bringing this traveling exhibit to a community involves significant costs and all funds collected from these boxes go directly toward offsetting those expenses. By the time this edition is published, the group will have over 50 boxes placed throughout the Downriver area, thanks to the generosity of local businesses and community members, Schlemmer said.

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.

"We are still seeking additional sponsors, and information on sponsorship opportunities can be found on our website," he said.

To learn more about the effort and the event, go to TheWallThatHealsTaylor2026.com. It will provide all the information and news about The Wall's visit to Taylor, including how to volunteer, become a sponsor, or donate.

A Facebook page (facebook.com/TWHTaylor2026) will feature the latest updates, spotlight Vietnam War heroes, share fundraising news and more.



the legacy of those who served. He is a life member of the Conroy-Renye-McNeil VFW Auxiliary 4422 located on Pine Street south of City Hall, serves as the national president of the Sons and Daughters of the

SAVE THESE DATES!

Free garage sales, hazardous waste days, shred days and cleanups dot calendar

THE City of Taylor will again offer two free Citywide Garage Sale periods in 2026. The first will start on Friday, May 22 and run through Sunday, May 31. The second will be held in the late summer, starting on Friday, August 14 and running through Sunday, August 23.



Each of these periods will enable participants to have two full weekends of garage sales, should weather be a problem during one of the weekends. No permit is required to hold your garage sale during these dates only.

Take note of the following tips:

- Residents hosting sales should hold them in relatively open areas
- Residents hosting sales on their property should provide disposal containers, lined with plastic bags, that can be easily sealed and disposed of, during and after their events
- Keep any advertising signage for your sale out of public rights-of-way, or easements.

When any citywide rummage sale ends, unwanted items can be disposed of at the Taylor Hills Transfer Station and Compost Site at 16300 Racho Road. The site is open Mondays through Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Residents will be required to use any available free dump privileges or pay the cost to dispose of any unwanted items. No commercial dumping is permitted. No explosives, automobiles and auto parts, boats, concrete, hazardous waste, compost materials, tree branches, or tires will be accepted.

Household Hazardous Waste Days:

Four collection days are offered by Wayne County this year, which is nothing new. What is new is that two will be held Downriver. The first was planned for Saturday, April 11 at Melvindale High School. The second will come on Saturday, October 10 at Wayne County Community College Downriver Campus, here in Taylor.

The complete list follows:

- **Saturday, April 11** at Melvindale High School. 4500 Enterprise Drive, Allen Park.
- **Saturday, June 27** at Henry Ford Community College, 5101 Evergreen Road, Dearborn.
- **Saturday, August 29** at Westland Shopping Center. 35000 Warren Road, Westland.

- **Saturday, October 10** at Wayne County Community College District Downriver Campus, 21000 Northline Road, Taylor.

These collections are open to Wayne County residents.

Accepted: All types of household hazardous waste.

No radioactive materials, explosives, household waste, yard waste, commercial waste, industrial waste, tires, appliances, and roofing.

If you have questions, call (734) 326-3936.



Free Shred Days:

Free Shred Days are presented by City Clerk Cindy Bower and the Rotary Club of Taylor. They will be held on Saturday, April 11 and again on Saturday, September 19.

These are open to Taylor residents only. Items to be shredded can be delivered between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. (vehicles must be in line by 12:45 p.m. to participate). The collection takes place in the City Hall parking lot.



Cemetery Cleanup Days:

The clerk's office is also in charge of cleaning the three public-owned cemeteries in our community. These cleanups always need volunteer support. To get involved, email cityclerk@cityoftaylormi.com.

The clean-up days are scheduled on:

- **Saturday, April 25, at Golden Ridge Cemetery,** McKinley Street and Golden Ridge, from 10-noon.
- **Saturday, April 25, at Oak Dale Cemetery,** 15995 S. Telegraph, from 12:30-2 p.m.
- **Saturday, May 2, at Oak Grove Cemetery,** Burr Street south of Van Born, 10-noon.



11th Annual Heritage Park Cleanup Day:

The volunteer cleanup of the City's largest park is scheduled for 9-11 a.m. on Saturday, May 2. Everyone is welcome to participate, but dress appropriately including heavy boots and gloves. Meet at the Sheridan Center Open Air Pavilion parking lot at 9 a.m. Any questions, call Jim Taylor at (734) 666-8968.

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A Fresh Start

Flamingo Brunch House sets a new pace, thanks to an old owner

NESTLED on Ecorse Road, Flamingo Brunch House isn't just a breakfast spot—it's a Taylor institution built on decades of community, resilience, and a love for great food.

With its mix of classic favorites and modern touches, the Flamingo continues to welcome long-term patrons and new visitors alike.

The story of the Flamingo is closely tied to its owner, Phil Mina. He first took over the restaurant in July 2004, running it as a full-service family eatery for 15 years before selling it in March 2019. When the new owners defaulted on their land contract, Mina saw a chance to reclaim the business and reimagine it.

In September 2025, he reopened the Flamingo as a single-shift brunch spot, keeping some original touches while introducing a fresh, modern concept.

"Being a small business owner means everything to me," Mina said. "I work from my heart, with heavy responsibility. I love my customers, and cooking is all I know. My father, being a chef, taught me everything about the business."

A Taylor native, Mina was born and raised in the city, graduated from Taylor Center High School in 1986, and still lives on the same street he grew up on.

Over the years, he has partnered with local

organizations like the Taylor Police Department and Little League, reinforcing the restaurant's role as a community hub. That sense of family extends to his staff, too—several servers have been with the Flamingo for many years, showing a loyalty that contributes to the warm, consistent dining experience.

The Flamingo name is a nod to the original owners' love of Florida; a piece of history Mina has preserved.

Today, the menu reflects both tradition and innovation. Guests flock for stuffed French toast, Biscoff pancakes, shrimp and grits, the Flamingo skillet, and Phil's turkey club—but an underrated favorite is the chorizo and eggs. Diners enjoy high-quality dishes at reasonable prices, paired with friendly, efficient service in a down-to-earth, welcoming atmosphere.

Like any small business, Mina faces challenges, including rising costs and finding reliable staff. Yet his passion never wavers. For him, the Flamingo is more than a restaurant—it's a lifelong calling, rooted in family, community, and a love of cooking.

Flamingo Brunch House is open Tuesdays through Sundays, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.. For more information, call (313) 295-1203.



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8 Point Building Supply is a family owned and operated business with three locations, each offering its own unique choice of products and services. We take pride in our selection of landscaping, masonry, hardscape and building supplies, along with our competitive pricing. We offer a variety of mulch, gravel, block, brick, stone and so much more. Not only is 8 Point a UNILOCK dealer, but we also carry an array of brands offering natural stone pavers, reclaimed brick and specialty items to help create the project you have been dreaming of.

If you are a Homeowner, Contractor, Builder, Landscaper or Project Enthusiast, everyone here at 8 Point Building Supply welcomes you and the opportunity to serve your project needs!

***We offer discounted pricing and In-Store Accounts for qualified businesses and Military discounts.**

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THERE'S A REASON WE'VE BEEN IN BUSINESS SINCE 1928

Taylor located, family owned and operated company taking pride in our communities.
We have been serving your area for almost 100 years!

We are Licensed, Insured & Bonded • Residential & Commercial

Concrete & Asphalt Services • Foundations & Structural Repairs
Driveways, Patios, Sidewalks & Walkways • Home Builds, Additions & Renovations
Roofs, Siding, Gutters & Windows

FREE ESTIMATES