



# TAYLOR TODAY

JUNE 2026

VOL. 14 NO. 3



## **No Hurdle is Too High for Taylor High School's Top 10 Students**



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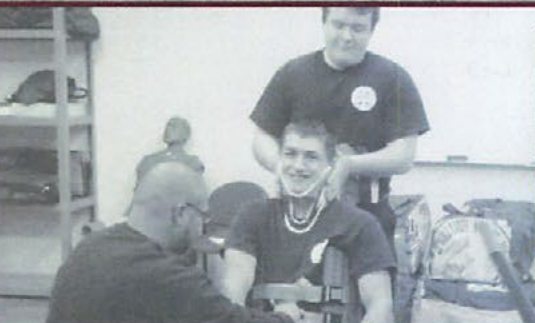


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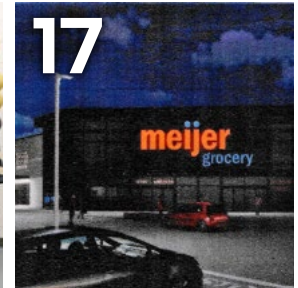
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Taylor  
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313-291-0900



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- 5** **Mayor Tim Woolley's column: August will be special**
- 8** **Around Taylor**
- 12** **Taylor High's Top 10**  
Taylor High School's students' list features 10 students – and no one has a grade-point-average of under 4.0.
- 13** **Scholarships Abound**  
The Taylor Schools Foundation for Educational Excellence awarded approximately \$40,000 in awards and scholarships to deserving senior graduates.
- 16** **Eureka Road project update**  
The Eureka Road Corridor Project, which has caused more than a couple of traffic frustrations over the past year, continues to move at a breakneck pace.
- 17** **Meijer Market Format**  
If initial reaction has anything to do with success, the new Meijer Market Format store planned for the northwest corner of Telegraph Road and Champaign is off to a flying start.
- 21** **Library used book sale is July 11**
- 22** **Medal of Honor winner to open TWTH**
- 24** **Balanced budget**  
City Council unanimously approved the Taylor General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2026-27 and the Omnibus Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2025-26.
- 28** **Business & Development**
- 32** **Celebrating SEMCA**  
The Southeast Michigan Community Alliance is a non-profit organization dedicated to workforce development and human services in Monroe and Out-Wayne County.
- 34** **Annual City of Taylor Water Quality Report**



- 36** **Raising Cane's**  
It's amazing what the dreams of two college students can accomplish. In this case, it is a national restaurant chain that is coming to Taylor.
- 38** **Small Business Profile: KPOT Korean BBQ**  
This concept combines interactive Korean BBQ with traditional hot pot dining — and from the very first week, it was clear Taylor was ready to embrace something new.



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# From MAYOR WOOLLEY

**T**HE second week of August is always a special time in our community. That's when Taylor hosts the Junior League World Series, as it has each year since its inception in 1981.

But this August is going to be a little more special.

That's because as the JLWS is being played in one part of Heritage Park from August 9-16, The Wall That Heals will be making a tour stop in Taylor on August 13-16.

By now, most people in Taylor and surrounding areas know about the JLWS. It is a spectacular week-long international baseball tournament for the best 13- and 14-year-old players from around the world. Founded in 1981, it is the older brother of the Little League World Series, which is held annually in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania each summer.



Twenty nine states across America have been represented in the JLWS, along with four Canadian provinces and the following countries: Aruba, Belgium, Chinese Taipei, Curacao, Czech Republic, England, Germany, Guam, Guatemala, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Puerto Rico, Russia, Saipan, Saudi Arabia, Netherland, U.S. Virgin Islands, Ukraine and Venezuela.

Hao-Yu Lee, once a member of the Chinese Taipei team in the JLWS, now plays with the Detroit Tigers. Other current or past professional baseball players who participated in the JLWS include Gary Sheffield, Eric Bedard, Brett Myers, Jose and Javier Valentin, Derek Bell, Delino DeShields and many others.

The Wall That Heals is a traveling replica of the Vietnam Memorial. It will visit Heritage Park from August 13 through August 16. The Welcome Home Ceremony featuring Sergeant Major Richardson will take place at 10 a.m. August 13. Richardson is a retired command sergeant major who was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Donald Trump in March 2026.

The Wall That Heals will be open 24 hours a day from the time it opens to the time it closes on August 16. 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.

Remember the dates. August in Taylor will be special this summer.

# TODAY MAGAZINES



Our TODAY Magazines are an incredible platform that allows the entire community to coalesce, interact and tout successes, initiatives, events and achievements on a yearly basis.

Our quarterly publications allow cities/townships, chambers, DDAs, schools, businesses, residents, etc. to connect and be proud of where they work, play and live.

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Stay informed about the City of Taylor by watching YouTube at City of Taylor



(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>*

**City of Taylor Officials**



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Mayor

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**VICTORIA SHACKELFORD**  
District Court Judge



**BRITTANY JOHNSON**  
District Court Judge



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# AROUND Taylor

## July – August

### JULY

#### July 1 15th Annual Music and Art in the Gardens

Taylor Conservatory & Botanical Gardens  
22314 Northline Road  
5:30-8:30 p.m.  
*INFO: Featured musical group is Mad Mad World, classic and pop rock. Enjoy the annual Music & Art in the Gardens summer concert series, held every Wednesday evening. Tickets at \$5 per person at the gate. Season passes are available to enjoy all nine concerts of the season.*



**July 4  
Independence Day**  
(City Hall closed)

#### July 8 15th Annual Music and Art in the Gardens

Taylor Conservatory & Botanical Gardens  
22314 Northline Road  
5:30-8:30 p.m.  
*INFO: Featured musical group is LL7 Latin Jazz, a high energy group. Enjoy the annual Music & Art in the Gardens summer concert series, held every Wednesday evening. Tickets at \$5 per person at the gate. Season passes are available to enjoy all nine concerts of the season.*

**July 13-17  
Junior Golf Camp**  
Lakes of Taylor Golf Course  
25505 Northline Road  
*INFO: \$100 per camper, pre-registrations required. Includes five hours of instruction and on course play. Program divided by age groups. Runs from 10 a.m.-noon and noon-2 p.m. depending on age group. Call (734) 287-2100 or email agrant@cityoftaylor.mi.gov.*

#### July 14 Jukebox Bingo

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

#### July 15 15th Annual Music and Art in the Gardens

Taylor Conservatory & Botanical Gardens  
22314 Northline Road  
5:30-8:30 p.m.  
*INFO: Featured musical group is Category 5, classic rock. Enjoy the annual Music & Art in the Gardens summer concert series, held every Wednesday evening. Tickets at \$5 per person at the gate. Season passes are available to enjoy all nine concerts of the season.*



#### July 17 Friday Family Fun Day

Noon-4 p.m.  
Sheridan Pavilion  
12111 Pardee Road  
*INFO: This is the second of Taylor Parks & Recreation's summer series of Family Fun Days. Each event in the series includes the Taylor Made Market, kid's crafts, special children's character meet-and-greets and more. Admission is free.*

#### July 17-19 Wounded American Charity Motorcycle Ride

Motown Harley-Davidson  
14100 Telegraph Road  
*INFO: Seventy-two hours of entertainment, fun and patriotism includes live music, taste fest, veterans' celebration and more. Charity ride on Saturday, July 18, will try to raise \$30,000 in donations for Downriver for Veterans and Foundation 14. Departs and finishes at Motown-Harley Davidson. Travels through many Downriver communities. Presented by Taylor, Trenton, Dearborn Heights, Grosse Ile, Romulus and Southgate Rotary Clubs. For more information call (734) 604-2995.*

#### July 20 Fitness in the Gardens

Taylor Conservatory & Botanical Gardens  
22314 Northline Road  
*INFO: Find your balance and rejuvenate your mind and body at the Taylor Conservatory & Botanical Gardens. Enjoy outdoor fitness classes surrounded by beautiful garden scenery and fresh air – a perfect way to end your day. Classes are open to all fitness levels, encouraging wellness, relaxation, and connection with nature.*

#### July 21 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.*

## July 22

### Seniors Ice Cream Social

Noon-3 p.m.  
William Ford Senior Activities Center  
6750 Troy Street  
*INFO: Music and ice cream. Call (313) 291-7740 for details. Pre-registration required.*

## July 22

### 15th Annual Music and Art in the Gardens

Taylor Conservatory & Botanical Gardens  
22314 Northline Road  
5:30-8:30 p.m.  
*INFO: Featured entertainment is Detroit Breakdown, a J Geils Band experience. Music & Art in the Gardens summer concert series is held every Wednesday evening. Tickets are \$5 per person. Season passes are available to enjoy all nine concerts of the season.*

## July 23

### 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](mailto:taylorbusinessalliance@gmail.com)*

## July 25-August 2

### Early In-Person Voting for the August Election

Taylor City Hall  
23555 Goddard Road  
*INFO: All Early In-Person Voting takes place at City Hall between Saturday, July 25 and Sunday, August 2. Polls are open from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, and from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Mondays-Fridays. If you have questions, contact the Clerk's office at (734) 287-6550 Option 6.*



## July 25

### Telegraph Cruise

Along Telegraph Road from Redford through Taylor  
9 a.m.-9 p.m.  
*INFO: One of the staples of the summer, classic cars flock to The 'Graph to show off for spectators who line the street.*

## July 25-26

### City Golf Championship

Lakes of Taylor and Taylor Meadows  
*INFO: A two-day event that takes place at both golf courses over the weekend. Start time is 7 a.m. Call (734) 287-2100 for more information. Pre-registration required.*

## July 25

### Running to Honor 5K

Heritage Park  
12111 Pardee Road  
*INFO: The Running to Honor 5K is a timed, family friendly walk (or run) focused on keeping the memory of fallen soldiers and veterans alive and reminding others that freedom is never free. The registration website is <https://runsignup.com/RunningToHonor>.*



## July 27

### Fitness in the Gardens

Taylor Conservatory & Botanical Gardens  
22314 Northline Road  
*INFO: Find your balance and rejuvenate your mind and body at the Taylor Conservatory & Botanical Gardens. Enjoy outdoor fitness classes surrounded by beautiful garden scenery and fresh air – a perfect way to end your day. Classes are open to all fitness levels, encouraging wellness, relaxation, and connection with nature.*

## July 28

### Seniors Monthly Birthday Bash & Karaoke

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

## July 29

### 15th Annual Music and Art in the Gardens

Taylor Conservatory & Botanical Gardens  
22314 Northline Road  
5:30-8:30 p.m.  
*INFO: Feature entertainment is Soundproof, a Motown tribute band. Enjoy the annual Music & Art in the Gardens summer concert series, held every Wednesday evening. Tickets are \$5 per person. Season passes are available to enjoy all nine concerts of the season.*

## AUGUST

### August 1

#### Golf and Beer Tasting

Taylor Meadows Golf Course  
25360 Ecorse  
*INFO: Call (734) 287-2100 for more information.*

### August 3

#### Fitness in the Gardens

Taylor Conservatory & Botanical Gardens  
22314 Northline Road  
*INFO: Find your balance and rejuvenate your mind and body at the Taylor Conservatory & Botanical Gardens. Enjoy outdoor fitness classes surrounded by beautiful garden scenery and fresh air – a perfect way to end your day. Classes are open to all fitness levels, encouraging wellness, relaxation, and connection with nature.*

### August 4

#### Primary Election

7 a.m.-8 p.m.  
*INFO: Various precincts across the City. Visit the Michigan Voters Information Center or [cityoftaylor.com](http://cityoftaylor.com) for more information.*

Around continued on page 10



**August 5**  
**15th Annual Music and Art in the Gardens**

Taylor Conservatory & Botanical Gardens  
22314 Northline Road  
5:30-8:30 p.m.  
INFO: The last of nine concerts this summer, enjoy the music of Major Dudes, a Steely Dan tribute band. Music & Art in the Gardens summer concert series is held every Wednesday evening. Tickets are \$5 per person. Season passes are available to enjoy all nine concerts of the season.

**August 9-16**  
**Junior League World Series**

Heritage Park  
12111 Pardee Road  
INFO: The Junior League World Series – the older brother of the Little League World Series – has never called anywhere but Taylor home. It returns this season for the 44th time in Heritage Park. The best 13- and 14-year-old baseball teams in the world will be on hand. Chinese Taipei won its fourth straight title last year and 11th since 2010 with an 8-1 victory over the USA Southeast Regional Champion Georgia last summer.

**August 10**  
**Fitness in the Gardens**

Taylor Conservatory & Botanical Gardens  
22314 Northline Road  
INFO: Find your balance and rejuvenate your mind and body at the Taylor Conservatory & Botanical Gardens. Enjoy outdoor fitness classes surrounded by beautiful garden scenery and fresh air – a perfect way to end your day. Classes are open to all fitness levels, encouraging wellness, relaxation, and connection with nature.

**August 10-14**  
**Downriver Senior Olympics**

Lincoln Park (host city)  
INFO: The event celebrates its 40th year as Downriver men and women 55 years of age and over from 18 participating communities converge on the host community, Lincoln Park. Events will be held at various sites in Lincoln Park along with several other communities. For instance, Taylor will host ping pong on August 12. Informational packets and registration forms are available on the Senior Service section of city website at cityoftaylor.com.

**August 11**  
**Jukebox Bingo**

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



**August 13-16**  
**The Wall That Heals**

Heritage Park  
12111 Pardee Road  
INFO: The Wall That Heals is a three-quarters scaled replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial located in Washington, D.C. Unveiled in 1996, the replica has traveled to over 800 communities across the country. The exhibit also features a mobile learning center. Visitors can learn about the legacy of the memorial and participate in related activities. It will open on Thursday, August 13 and remain open to the public around the clock until 2 p.m. on Sunday, August 16. The local committee continues to seek volunteers and sponsors. If you are interested, click on TheWallThatHealsTaylor2026.com.



**August 14**  
**Friday Family Fun Day**

Noon-4 p.m.  
Sheridan Pavilion  
12111 Pardee Road  
INFO: The final day of Taylor Parks & Recreation's summer series of Family Fun Days inside the Sheridan Pavilion. Each event in the series includes the Taylor Made Market, kid's crafts, special children's character meet-and-greets and more. Admission is free.

**August 17**  
**Fitness in the Gardens**

Taylor Conservatory & Botanical Gardens  
22314 Northline Road  
INFO: Find your balance and rejuvenate your mind and body at the Taylor Conservatory & Botanical Gardens. Enjoy outdoor fitness classes surrounded by beautiful garden scenery and fresh air – a perfect way to end your day. Classes are open to all fitness levels, encouraging wellness, relaxation, and connection with nature.

**August 18**  
**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.

**August 20**  
**Rotary Club of Taylor Charity Golf Fundraiser**

Lakes of Taylor  
25505 Northline Road  
7:30 a.m. registration  
INFO: Sign up as a player (\$145) or foursome (\$580). Breakfast, hot dogs at the turn followed by lunch. Sponsorship is always sought. Raffles and prizes. For more information or to register, click on taylorrotary.org.

**August 24**  
**Fitness in the Gardens**

Taylor Conservatory & Botanical Gardens  
22314 Northline Road  
INFO: Find your balance and rejuvenate your mind and body at the Taylor Conservatory & Botanical Gardens. Enjoy outdoor fitness classes surrounded by beautiful garden scenery and fresh air – a perfect way to end your day. Classes are open to all fitness levels, encouraging wellness, relaxation, and connection with nature.

**August 25**  
**Seniors Monthly Birthday Bash & Karaoke**

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

**August 27**  
**Annual Senior Picnic**

William Ford Senior Activities Center  
6750 Troy Street  
Noon-3  
INFO: Games and activities, catered meal, raffles, and live band.

For more information on City news and events, always log on [www.cityoftaylor.com](http://www.cityoftaylor.com).



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# Scale Mountains, Uncover Your True Potential

For Taylor High School's Top 10, it appears no hurdle is too high

**T**HE students featured in Taylor High School's Top 10 exemplify the very best of what it means to be a Griffin. Through perseverance, determination and unwavering grit, they have challenged themselves academically while balancing the many demands of high school life.

Their success is not only measured by grades and accomplishments, but by the resilience, character, and leadership they have shown along the way. These outstanding students truly embody Griffin Pride, serving as role models for our school community and proving that hard work and dedication lead to excellence.

On behalf of the entire Griffin family, I congratulate each of them on this remarkable achievement and look forward to all they will accomplish in the future.

Principal Melissa Skopczynski, Taylor High School



## No. 1 ERIK Schroeder

**GPA:** 4.397400

**College Plans:** University of Michigan.

**What you will Study:** Electrical Engineering.

**Awards and Honors from High School:** Honor roll four years, valedictorian. Advanced Placement Scholar with distinction.

**Activities, Clubs, Sports you participated in at THS:** National Honor Society, Link Crew, DECA, Green Club and marching band.

**Favorite High School memory:** Getting disqualified from skit night.

**Advice to underclassmen:** Actually, join different clubs. They aren't that bad.



## No. 3 RYAN Sullivan

**GPA:** 4.277900

**College Plans:** University of Michigan.

**What you will Study:** Chemical Engineering.

**Awards and Honors from High School:** Honor roll.

**Favorite High School memory:** Spending time with my friends in AP classes.

**Advice to underclassmen:** Take time to care for yourself.



## No. 2 BRYCE Rodriguez

**GPA:** 4.294000

**College Plans:** Michigan State University.

**What you will Study:** Actuarial Science.

**Awards and Honors from High School:** Honor Roll.

**Activities, Clubs, Sports you participated in at THS:** DECA, Quiz bowl, National Honor Society, JV Golf and Green Club.

**Favorite High School memory:** The water balloon fight while volunteering for Holland's fun day 11th grade year.

**Advice to underclassmen:** Prepare for the SATs if you want to go to college. You will regret it if you don't.



## No. 4 ADA McGarrity

**GPA:** 4.230200

**College Plans:** University of Michigan.

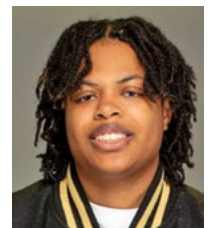
**What you will Study:** Biomedical Engineering.

**Awards and Honors from High School:** Most Improved Player and "First Team Award" from Varsity Basketball; Honor Roll ninth-12th grade.

**Activities, Clubs, Sports you participated in at THS:** Basketball, Golf, National Honor Society, Link Crew.

**Favorite High School memory:** The day I tore my ACL. It was a pretty good day, and it is a day I will never forget.

**Advice to underclassmen:** Work hard now, so you don't have to later.



# SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Taylor High School held its Senior Honors Convocation for the Class of 2026 on May 14 in the Heinz Prechter Center on the campus of the Wayne County Community College Downriver District. Hundreds of students were honored. The Taylor Schools Foundation for Educational Excellence awarded approximately \$40,000 in awards and scholarships to deserving senior graduates.

The recipients of the scholarships are:

- **David Zyczynski and Ryan Sullivan (\$1,250 each):** Charles Dickelman University of Michigan Scholarships.
- **Emmanuel Cuba and Kyle Sanders (\$500 each):** Democratic Club of Taylor Scholarships.
- **Emmanuel Cuba and Jeovanny Galvan Vazquez (\$500 each):** DFCU Educational Achievement Award.
- **Melanie Krapohl, Julissa Fuentes, Erik Schroeder, John Ortner, Brooke Adams and Tiara Turner (\$500 each):** Ella Geiss Memorial Award.
- **Martin Arce Jr. (\$2,000):** John and Sharon Cruden Awards.
- **John Ortner and Jeovanny Galvan Vazquez (\$500 each):** Judith Miller Scholarship Award.
- **Aiden Havener (\$1,000):** The Wayne Hamilton Scholarship Award.
- **Adam McParland and Ada McGarrity (\$2,500 each):** Kyle Fisher Memorial Award.
- **Aiden Havener, Ashlynn Beals, Cara Murphy and Marcus Armstrong (\$1,500 each):** Larry Miele Legacy Scholarship.
- **Bryce Rodriguez and Eric Schroeder (\$1,000 each):** Mayor Tim Woolley Scholarship.
- **Cara Murphy (\$2,500):** Mckinley TCDC Scholarship.
- **Trey Davis (\$1,500):** Nelson Memorial Scholarship in Memory of Shelley, Jeffrey and Lisa.
- **Bryce Rodriguez (\$500):** Robert Haarala Memorial Scholarship.
- **Zachary Revoir (\$500):** Robert and Mary Merriman Scholarship.
- **Julissa Fuentes and Simone Hatch (\$1,000):** Taylor Churches Making a Difference Award.
- **Megan Jamieson and Andrew Hatcher (\$1,000 each):** Taylor School District Alumni Association Award.
- **Autumn Smith (\$1,000):** Taylor Public School Foundation.
- **Destiny Gardner and Noelle Thomas (\$500 each):** Total Community Credit Union.
- **Angela DeAlba and Noelle Thomas (\$500 each):** Women's Auxiliary of the Democratic Club of Taylor Scholarship.

The Taylor Public School Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and was established in 1986. It is made up of volunteers from businesses and the community to raise funds above and beyond the school district operating budget. It supports a variety of educational programs throughout the school district, K through 12, to enhance the education of Taylor Public School students.

The Foundation works to help students and programs in the Taylor School District. Support from alumni, donors, friends and community members results in enrichment opportunities in the district through mini-grants, scholarships, fine arts and other areas. If you'd like to help, contact the Foundation at [taylorschoolsfoundation.org](http://taylorschoolsfoundation.org).

## No. 5 ALYSSA Bartelo

**GPA:** 4.212500

**College Plans:** University of Michigan-Dearborn.

**What you will Study:** Biomedical Engineering.

**Awards and Honors from High School:** 4-Year Honor Roll, AP Scholar with Honors.

**Activities, Clubs, Sports you participated in at THS:** National Honor Society, DECA, Green Club, Link Crew, Marching Band, Girls Varsity Tennis.

**Favorite High School memory:** 10th Grade Marching Band Down River Fanfare.

**Advice to underclassmen:** Make good friendships. The people you surround yourself with influence your motivation, behavior and even your grades. Pick people who want to do well.



## No. 6 DAVID Zyczynski

**GPA:** 4.166700

**College Plans:** University of Michigan.

**What you will Study:** Undecided.

**Awards and Honors from High School:** Homecoming King, four years on the honor roll and AP scholar with distinction.

**Activities, Clubs, Sports you participated in at THS:** Student Council class president, National Honor Society, Students Leading Students, Yearbook, Quiz Bowl starter, Student Bureau of Investigation co-founder, Art Club president, powder puff and Link Crew.

**Favorite High School memory:** My favorite memory is Homecoming Day, the pep rally, the game and winning Homecoming King – it was all such a great day.

**Advice to underclassmen:** Don't procrastinate, whether it's in classes, extracurriculars, your job, or figuring out your future. As someone who has, it will come back to bite you.



## No. 7 AMELIA KENYON

**GPA:** 4.159300

**College Plans:** University of Michigan.

**What you will Study:** Pre-Med.

**Awards and Honors from High School:**

All-league athlete, Honor Roll all four years. AP scholar award.

**Activities, Clubs, Sports you participated**

**in at THS:** Four years varsity cheer sideline, four years varsity competitive cheer, National Honors Society president, Link Crew, Quiz Bowl, Softball.

**Favorite High School memory:** My favorite high school memory was senior year, painting parking spots with all my friends and family, cheering at football games and going out with my friends afterward. Those moments, filled with laughter and time spent with the people I love most, are memories I'll always cherish.

**Advice to underclassmen:** Keep pushing yourself and try not to procrastinate. It is much easier to stay on top of your work than to rush at the last minute to bring your grades up. Do not be afraid to ask for help, get involved in activities and step out of your comfort zone. You might discover things you love and meet people who make your experience even better. High school is only fun if you involve yourself, so do not just exist, make the most of it. At the same time, remember to take care of yourself and enjoy the experience. Make memories, spend time with your friends and appreciate the little moments, because it really does go by faster than you think.



## No. 9 NOELLE Thomas

**GPA:** 4.083400

**College Plans:** Baker College/Culinary Institute of Michigan.

**What you will Study:** Baking and Pastry Arts.

**Awards and Honors from High School:**

Academic Letter, Four-Year Academic Pins, Four-Year Perfect Attendance, Career Center Student of the Month, National Honor's Society Inductee, National Technical Honor's Society Inductee.

**Activities, Clubs, Sports you participated in at THS:** Link Crew, National Honor Society, National Technical Honor's Society, Students Leading Students, Yearbook, Student Council Secretary, Student Council Executive Board, Unified Special Olympics.

**Favorite High School memory:** During my senior year, I choreographed the Lip Sync battle dance for my class, which included the POHI students, and we won!

**Advice to underclassmen:** Live in the moment or else you will miss what is right in front of you.



## No. 8 JOHN Ortner

**GPA:** 4.113900

**College Plans:** Eastern Michigan University.

**What you will Study:** Instrumental Music Education.

**Awards and Honors from High School:** Honor Roll.

**Activities, Clubs, Sports you participated**

**in at THS:** Marching Band, Pep Band, Esports and Hope Squad.

**Favorite High School memory:** My senior year of band camp for marching band!

**Advice to underclassmen:** Always strive to be the very best you can. Don't let others bring you down!



## No. 10 MARTIN Arce Jr.

**GPA:** 4.076400

**College Plans:** University of Michigan Dearborn and transfer to the Ann Arbor campus after one year.

**What you will Study:** Currently undecided, but I intend to advance toward a law degree.

**Awards and Honors from High School:**

Awarded the Summa Cum Laude (3.8-plus) award for three consecutive years.

**Activities, Clubs, Sports you participated in at THS:** During the ninth grade, I was an active member of the school store, Model UN, Symphonic Band, and the Varsity Baseball team. During the 10th grade, I was an active member of NHS, School Store, Symphonic Band and the Varsity Baseball team. During the 11th grade, I was an active member of the Quiz Bowl team. During the 12th grade, I was an active member of NHS, Link Crew, and Quiz Bowl (Captain).

**Favorite High School memory:** My favorite high school memory must be the 2025-2026 Homecoming game. Coming from a high school without a football team, I never understood the importance of homecoming until the day I got to go. That feeling after winning such an important game almost brought me to tears.

**Advice to underclassmen:** Build a close relationship with your counselor.



# Congratulations Class of 2026

## TAYLOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING CLASS

Cadin Allen Abrams  
Brooke Lily Adams  
Carter Mason Adams  
Hailey Rose Adams  
Fiona Agede  
Andrea Isabel Aguirre  
Nawaf Abdulelah Alhalemi  
Yazen Mahmoud Aljedi  
Endia Marie Allen  
Karieem Seth Allen  
Noah Reginald Allen  
Fahad Ahmed Amer  
Al-Sallami  
Zainab Ihsan Al-Shaikhi  
Imani Nelli Alvarez  
Nagham Alzamel  
Seth Logan Anderson  
Martin Antonio Arce, Jr.  
Jayla Brittany Archie  
Marcus Isaiah Armstrong  
Kelsey Lynn Arno  
Nicholas William Arnold  
Savannah Joy Arquette  
Kamren Robert Ash  
Lauren Atherton  
Destiny Monae Ayuk  
Savanna Elizabeth Irene  
Bach  
Andre Cornelius Baldwin III  
David Allan Bantau  
Kaylee Nevaeh Barker  
Omari Donovan Barracks  
Santiyanna Arianna Barrett  
Alyssa Jo Bartelo  
Ashlynn Ann Beals  
Alyssa Rynne Bellman  
Alaina Jade Bennett  
Lilly Grace Bennett  
Blake Andrew Berringer  
Jasmine Renee Bezeau  
Jescenia Raye Biando  
Blaise Cayden Birmingham  
Iosif Bobic  
Aliyah Bohanen  
Savanna Reann Bosel  
Joseph Ray Boyer  
Jamar Garrett Braxton  
Shardae Annalica Brezzell  
Samantha Lynn Briggs  
Leaiza Inez Brown  
Mark Anthony Buchko  
Stacy Lynn Buchko  
Gabriella Lou-Lynn Buckner  
Sean Patrick Burgess  
Johnny Edward Bush III  
Zoey Kendall Bussler  
Jaylon D'Juan Butler-  
Readous  
Makenna Faith Campbell  
Alyzia Solae' Carpenter  
Christian Michael Celsi  
Cesar Alexander Chapa  
Easton Keith Clark  
NeVaeh Renee Clark  
Jamari Cleveland-Saine  
Cloey Jain Cline  
Christian Alan Clyburn  
Jacob Nicolas Compton  
Savannah Lynn Cone  
Hannah Danielle Cook  
Anthony Jack Cote  
Michael James Covert III  
Miley Kathryn Cox  
Leila Ella Craig

Destanee Roses Crane  
John Jay Cronk  
Christopher Raul Cruz-  
Fuentes  
Emmanuel Cuna  
Tatiana Me'Chele Lynn  
Curry  
Jaylah Saquoyah Cyr  
Dakota Allen Daniels  
Sarah Anne Davidson  
Dynastee La Trice Davis  
Jeremiah Jacob Davis  
Trey Nicholas Davis  
Angela DeAlba  
Gabriela DeAlba  
Ethan Robert DeCosta  
Asia Marie DeMink  
Chelsea Jene' Denham  
Aaiden Joseph Dennis  
Marcus Samuel Diaconescu  
Matthew Lee Dorn  
Isis Wynter Dorsey  
Logan Matthew Doute  
Alexandria Haley Drake  
Katelyn Ann Drouillard  
Aubrey Marie DuGray  
Autumn Marie DuGray  
Sivaun King Durisseau  
Madison Amilyon  
Edmonds  
David Eghosa  
Kaitlynn Rose Eldridge  
Teron Q. Ellis  
Stacey Esparza Vega  
Nyia Everett-Smith  
Noah Alexander Fabi  
Aayla May Fink  
Ailey Margaret Fink  
Miley Nicole Floyd  
Joshua Clab Cosby Ford  
Lord Justice Fox, Jr.  
Jordan Demitri Charles  
Franklin  
Julissa Fuentes  
Floyd Edward Fulton  
Bryanna Michelle Galarza  
Gabriella Grace Gallegos  
Mackenzie Kay Gallup  
Jeovanny Galvan Vazquez  
Jhonny Galvan Vazquez  
Beyonca Dawn Garcia  
Yarellice Garcia-Peralta  
Destiny Isha Hope Gardner  
Emma Kay Gardner  
Emmalina Lori Garza  
Joseph Michael  
Gerwatowski, Jr.  
Kameron Keshon Gilliam  
Aiden Davis Gisel  
Kamryn Nicole Givans  
Nathan Jeffrey Glore  
Loki Okuninushi Glowinski  
Kaylee Jade Goins  
William Andrew Gollman  
Brandon James Green, Jr.  
Amari Martell Greene  
Izzabell Kristin Grijalva-  
Radziewicz  
Natalie Ann Guiles  
Angelique Gutierrez  
David Lenuel Gutierrez  
Jocelyn Lizette Gutierrez  
Dylan Micheal Hall  
Keirstyn Marie Harding

Marlon Lamar Harrington  
Kourtlyn Harris  
Daniel Cameron Harrison  
Kylie Ann Hart  
Kylie Rose Hartung  
Ryder Frank Harvey  
Mykira Hastings  
Simone Hatch  
Andrew Jacob Hatcher  
Aiden Jaymes Havener  
Amiah Lavera Yvette  
Haywood  
Jackson Taylor Heidenreich  
Miracle Janae Hester  
Brooklyn Ajanna Jean  
Hickey  
Ahmad Andrew Hill  
Caleb Dyllin Hill  
Cierra Paige Hill  
Zamyriah Hill-Abraham  
Elizabeth Ann Hiller  
Myrael Marie Hillman  
Erica Cheri Hogan  
Dorian Lamount Hollis  
Christian Neal Holt  
Ci'Esha Shyia Homes  
Brooklynn Cherisse  
Hudgins  
Braelen Michael Hughes  
Hiba Ijaz  
Oauryann Sane Jackson  
Andrea Chequita James  
Megan Elizabeth Jamieson  
Mia Christine Jasso  
Aiden George Jimenez  
Adrianna Marie Johnson  
Amya Michelle Johnson  
Jeremy Michael Johnson  
Keing Daion Johnson  
Samantha Gene Johnson  
Synthia Kayla Johnson  
Shane Allan Johnson-  
Baksa  
De'Andre Jones  
Kailah Mary'Ann Jones  
Ma'Kayla Dolores Jones  
Nicholas Bryan Jones, Jr.  
Triston Ian Jones  
Mohamed Ali Bassim  
Kaddour  
Hailey Marie Kanalos  
Henrina Musumari Kani  
Mason Allan Kendrick  
Brandon Kenney, Jr.  
Amelia Elyana Kenyon  
Eric Robert Kiester  
Jerry Vaughn Kimbrough  
Kadie Marie Kincaid  
Jayden Justin Knierim  
Raven Gabrielle Knighten  
Alexus Rene Kortas  
Kalliope Rose Koski  
Melanie Marie Krapohl  
Spencer James Krebs  
Darius Douglas Kulman  
Jenna Lynn Laemmel  
Lily Lynn Laemmel  
Wyatt Alan Lake  
Shayla Faye Lamar Taylor  
Ivy Lorraine Lange  
Brehana Noelle Lawson  
Isaiah Hakim Lawson  
Nickolas Tyler Lawson  
Savannah Ray Leck

Kayla Norah Lee  
Evan Lepp  
John Arthur Liller  
Colton James Lingenfelter  
Tiarah Lee Lollie  
Isaiah Roy Long  
Martel A Love, Jr.  
Maliq Daylin Lowe  
John Thirzy Jumalon  
Luarez  
Savannah Lenia Lutes  
Joseph Michael  
MacDonald, Jr.  
DeVonnie DeMario Mack  
Maggie Marlee  
Maliszewski  
Hayden Christopher  
Maranian  
Aaliyah Lynn Marks  
DeVaughn Andre Marks  
Joseph Anthony Marlow-  
Jones  
Kennedy Onassis Elise  
Marshall  
Ben James Martin  
Sean D'Angelo Martin  
Jaime Lee Mason  
Marcus Anthony Mattina  
Sierra Lynn Story Mayes  
Brooke Lynn Faith McCoy  
Ada Rose McGarrity  
Jaida Nikole McGee  
Arianna McKeown  
Landon Michael McMaster  
Adam Matthew McParland  
Jordyn Christopher  
McVeigh  
Alejandro Antonio  
Menendez-Chavez  
Jayden Danny Ernest Miley  
Vincent Charles Miller  
Nakiyah La'Shay Mixon  
Aleyah Joy Moore  
Cordney Jeremiah Moore,  
Jr.  
Amari Moore Jenkins  
Adrian Alberto Morales  
Autumn Morgan  
Mia Joy Morgan  
Haley Grace Morris  
Thomas Allen Morris  
Cara Mackenzi Morrow  
Aaron Keith Mullins  
Andrew Ray Mullins  
Cara Aaliyah Denise  
Murphy  
Thomas Charles Murphy  
Queen Liz Nadunga  
Brittany Nicole Oberto  
Alkiyd Obeyd  
Keira Belle O'Bryan  
Matthew Robert O'Connor  
Owen Roy O'Connor  
Karina Marie O'Donnell  
Cameron O'Neill  
Brent John Orban  
John Michael Ortnier  
Dalen Amari Page  
Bedelia Donna Paris  
Michael Matthew Parks  
Myah Marie Patler  
Aaliyah Faith Patterson  
Haley Alexis Paul  
Emily Pena-Garcia

Camila Guadalupe Perez-  
Neri  
Bruce Elliott Perry, Jr.  
Austin James Peterson  
Miranda Michaela Phillips  
Jenna Danielle-Elizabeth  
Pierce  
Montrice Tayhlan Polk  
Nathan Caine Porcario  
Emily Powell  
Shamond Antoine Powell,  
Jr.  
Treyvion RaShad Powell  
Sage Owen Proud  
Ethan Joseph Pruneau  
Noah Daniel Pusta  
Aria Ida Ragland  
Azaus Jeremi Ramey  
Melony Idsury Ramirez  
Martinez  
Marc Anthony Reed III  
Kenya Jollee Reese  
Tristina Fate Reeves  
Jaelyn Ann Marie  
Remisoski  
Zachary Reese Revoir  
Ella Star Rivera  
Aylin Rizo  
Micheal Robertson  
Brooklyn A'Shawnti  
Robinson  
Anissia Angel Rodriguez  
Bryce Rodriguez  
Willy Rodriguez  
Keith Jerome Rogers, Jr.  
Laila Ann Roldan  
Aleaha Roosa  
Cortez James Ross  
Edgar Ruiz  
Kylie Ann Alannah Ryan  
Haran Evaristo Salazar-Rios  
Michael Joseph Salisbury  
Sonya Isabell Samuels  
Ariana Kyle-Leigh Sanchez  
Kyle Joseph Sanders  
Avery Grant Saylor  
Erik Alexander Schroeder  
Darrell Alan Scott III  
Carson Christopher  
Seaman  
Chloe Christine Selders  
Collin Daryl Selders  
Ashaya Marie Sexton  
Warric Michael Shepherd  
Nicholas Rey Sherwood  
Rzan Kadhim Shnawa  
Umme Haniya Sial  
Joseph James Sides  
Althea Mimi Simes  
Aidan Daniel Sinawski  
Trinity Zaire Singleton  
Payton Rocco Singstock  
Isabella Marie Putman  
Skyles  
Kylie Marie Sloan  
Aidan Gregory Smith  
Austin Garrett Smith  
Autumn Robyn Smith  
Timmy New Smolinski  
Alonna Ajahna Spencer  
Justin Leondre Spencer  
Dallas James Stachulski  
Kennedi Jo Stailey  
Keith Thomas Stark

Makayla Starkey  
Mya Sharee Steanhouse  
Skylar J Steffan  
Rylee Rae Stephenson  
Zakkary Ian Stevens  
Brooke Rose Stodola  
Ava Rose Strange  
Addison Harley Strasser  
Bailey Marie Stubbe  
Jacob Sucharski  
Ryan David Sullivan  
William Matthew Swan  
Haley Marie Swartout  
Karen Rachelle Taylor  
Javon Donyell-Anthony  
Teel  
Dashawn Terry  
Hannah Alivia Theisen  
Ryland Dane Thibeault  
Faith Thivierge  
Noelle Calais Thomas  
Barrack Tibifumura  
Ly Thao Tran  
Genesis Trejo-Zamudio  
Ma'Kal Da'Cor Tucker  
Tiara Jewell Ann Turner  
Abby Lynn Twitty  
Jasmin Guadalupe Vaca  
Meza  
MaryJane Vance  
Sylvia Grace VanDeuren  
Myron Lavelle Varner  
Austin Michael Velarde  
Madelyn Kay Waddell  
NeVaeh Renee Wade  
Amati Nicole Ward  
Brielle Marie Warren  
T'Layah De'Shey  
Washington  
Samuel A Watkins  
Tyler Jacob Webb  
Brooklyn Kaye Wheeler  
Jaiden White  
Bradley Thomas Whitt  
Karma Grey Wilkinson  
Christopher Carmellow  
Williams  
Jamarion Jonathan  
Williams  
Louis Grant Williams, Jr.  
Zander Eugene Wilsdon  
Cameron Alfonse Wilson  
Haeden Lee Wilson  
Luke Michael Wolf  
Jordyn Paige Wysner  
Christian Jesse Zacchi  
Ciara Emily Sue Zacchi  
Maxamus Antonio Zavaleta  
David James Zyczynski



# Eureka Road Corridor Project Continues

## ‘Box culvert’ work along the Frank & Poet Drain will finish after July Fourth

**T**HE Eureka Road Corridor Project, which has caused more than a couple of traffic frustrations over the past year, continues to move at a breakneck pace. The project’s focus is to enclose portions of the Frank & Poet Drain while also improving other open portions of it to great aid in the aesthetics of the corridor while controlling flooding.

Thus far, the following has been accomplished:

- Racho Road culvert replacement and other associated improvements are completed except for some final lawn restoration. Racho Road has been open since February.
- An asphalt walkway at Racho and sidewalk on east side have been repaved and are open to the public.
- Overall, four out of five sections of box culverts that are part of this project have been replaced. Restoration of vegetation is in progress in these areas.
- Restoration is occurring on streambanks and lawn areas to prevent erosion as construction is completed.
- Streambank mitigation project at Lakes of Taylor Golf Course is largely completed including landscape restoration and tree and shrub planting.
- Temporary fencing has been installed at the end of Superior Road between the neighbors and the golf course to secure this area. Permanent fencing and gates will be installed soon.

What is coming soon:

- Last set of “box culverts” will be delivered and installed after the Fourth of July holiday.
- The north side sidewalk being replaced with widened walkway soon.

What has not been done yet:

- South sidewalk along Eureka Road will be replaced in some segments later in the project.
- Tree planting will also occur later in the project.

The long-awaited project was delayed almost five years before restarting shortly after Labor Day 2025. It will continue through the second quarter of 2027.

It originally started with new infrastructure along Eureka Road – roadwork related to Trader’s Point, signage, traffic signals, etc. But then the permitting for the largest portion of the project, enclosing a portion of the Frank & Poet Drain, slowed everything to a snail’s pace. The project is for



approximately \$18M, funded through Wayne County and TIFA.

Work on the culverts – along Racho Road, Syracuse, Cornell, Telegraph and around Meijer – has been ongoing. Construction of the culverts will end up taking over 280 working days.

The original plan came because of a September 2020 settlement reached in a decades-long legal tussle involving the Northline Road Agreement. That agreement created a then-\$17M project for improvements along Eureka Road to be done over several years.

The Frank & Poet Drain, which runs along Eureka Road from just east of Telegraph through the Southland Center property and on toward Southgate, has been an eyesore in the corridor.

The project follows an evolution of sorts along Eureka Road, where Southland Center mall and a Meijer Super Store have been decades-long destination points. With the creation of Trader’s Point at Eureka and I-75, Menards, BJ’s Wholesale Club and Main Event joined that group.

Hilton built a Home2Suites location along Pardee Road and across the street, Target did a complete makeover. Bubba’s 33 and BJ’s Restaurant and Brewhouse were also added, as were two Marriott hotels, the Fairfield Inn & Suites and TownPlace Suites, which opened near I-75 along with a Sheetz convenience and gasoline location. Chick-fil-A, the country’s top chicken fast-food restaurant chain, opened in the Southland Center out lot.

Another popular chicken fast-food franchise, Raising Cane’s, is scheduled to open on the corner of Eureka Road and Telegraph. A second Kroger is also moving into the community and will become part of the strip mall behind Raising Cane’s near the same intersection.



# The Meijer Market

## First reaction is that the new, smaller version of the store will be a hit in Taylor

Initial reaction has anything to do with success, the new Meijer Market Format store planned for the northwest corner of Telegraph Road and Champaign is off to a flying start. The concept was recently approved by the Planning Commission.

When the news hit the City of Taylor's Facebook page it earned nearly 450,000 views, over 260,000 viewers and over 600 comments. The post was shared over 560 times.

Meijer Market Format stores are smaller neighborhood stores ranging from 40,000- to 75,000-square-feet in size. That is about a quarter the size of the Meijer Supercenters, which are usually 160,000- to more than 200,000 square feet. Commenters compared the new Taylor location to one in Flat Rock, which they called "a mini-super store".

"Really cute stores," another wrote of the market format idea. "Love how they are taking it back to the beginning with the grocery only marketplaces."

A big draw to the Meijer Markets is their focus on stocking Michigan-made or locally grown items, from baked goods to spices, wines, cheeses and other specialty foods. Unlike many other organizations, Meijer Market general managers have leeway to stock local goods. The Meijer Market Format store has been highly successful in linking Pure Michigan suppliers with customers, according to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

The MEDC noted that while Meijer has grown to over 250 stores across Michigan and the Midwest, in recent years it has created a neighborhood market experience with small-format locations. Since 2018, Meijer has opened four market stores across the state: Bridge Street Market (Grand Rapids), Capital City Market (Lansing), Rivertown Market (Detroit) and Woodward Corner (Royal Oak).

The stores often feature unique in-house café or deli, an open-air feel and are designed to be more accessible with simplified layouts.

"The community has really embraced our small-format stores because they offer a new way to bring an extensive variety of fresh and locally sourced groceries to our customers," said Justin Stricklen, director of market format stores for Meijer, in the MEDC report. "Our small format stores have always had the autonomy to stock the local products that fit their communities' needs. This is the first time we've put out a call for those vendors to raise their hands and showcase their offerings. We believe there is a



lot of potential out there, and we're excited to begin building those lasting partnerships to benefit our customers.

According to the MEDC, as the Meijer market format stores continue to look for local food and beverage vendors with unique products to offer, Pure Michigan Business Connects' Local Vendor Events have helped introduce nearly 50 Michigan small businesses to store directors, purchasers and inventory leads – a win-win for the state.

Meijer continues to use PMBC as a resource to identify Michigan suppliers who may have products and services for their stores, ensuring the continued support and success for Meijer's market format stores and the Michigan suppliers whose products stock the shelves.

Taylor's 75,097-square-foot facility will be located between the existing strip mall anchored by Hook & Reel Seafood and Bar and the Thrifty Florist on the corner of Telegraph and Champaign – a vacant lot where Handy Andy's and others once stood. They'll be plenty of parking spaces, with large lots encircling the store on three sides.

A new Sheetz convenience store and gasoline station is being built directly to the south, on the southwest corner of Champaign and Telegraph. The Walmart Supercenter and the Dairy Queen Grill & Grill are within a stone's throw of the new location.

The new Meijer is the third new grocery store to locate in Taylor over the past year. Aldi built a new location at 23351 Eureka. Kroger plans its second major store in the community, this one near the corner of Telegraph Road and Eureka, where Downriver's first Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers is planned. All of which makes Mayor Tim Woolley a happen man these days.

"All of this is really good news and I'm glad to hear that the Meijer move is getting that type of reaction from our residents," he said. "These major grocery stores not only offer shopping variety and opportunities, but they also bring solid jobs and tax base to our community. This is tremendous news for Taylor."





# A DEDICATED PARTNER

## Advantage One Credit Union Strengthens Community Through Outreach and Support By Kelsi Klein

**A**DVANTAGE ONE Credit Union has not only been a staple financial institution in the Brownstown area for years, but also a dedicated community partner.

Over the years, the credit union has built a strong reputation as a committed supporter of Downriver schools, teachers and students, consistently investing in initiatives that benefit students both inside and outside the classroom. From sponsoring school programs like robotics teams, softball teams and marching bands to donating raffle baskets and branded items for fundraisers, Advantage One plays an active role in strengthening a sense of community across Downriver schools.

One of the credit union's major education initiatives is its student scholarship program designed to provide financial aid to individuals pursuing further education. Each spring, Advantage One awards four \$2,500 scholarships to traditional college or university students, trade school attendees and adults continuing their education. One of the scholarships is reserved specifically for an Advantage One member, while another is designated specifically for an adult learner.

In recent years, the credit union has expanded its educational impact through a popular teacher grant program. Now in its third year, the campaign allows local teachers to share how they would use a \$500 grant to benefit their classroom. Ten winners are selected annually, and more than 100 teacher grant applications were submitted last year alone.

"Teacher grant time is my favorite time of year," said Community Outreach Coordinator Lindsay Dennis. "Teachers spend so much of their own money and time on their classrooms, and they don't always get the recognition they deserve, so I love seeing how we can help meet the needs that these teachers have and it brings instant tears

to my eyes to see how happy they are."

Beyond formal programs and initiatives, Advantage One is dedicated to supporting educators and students year-round. Last fall, after learning that some local teachers were personally covering the costs of snacks for students who came to school without adequate food, the credit union stepped in to provide classroom snacks, truly personifying their philosophy of "people helping people."

The same spirit of giving extends into Advantage One's daily operations as they prioritize giving back to the broader community. For the past three years, Advantage



One has donated \$5,000 to the Taylor School District's Resource Closet (formerly known as Blessings in a Backpack), which helps provide essential items and support to local families in need.

Financial education is another cornerstone of Advantage One's community outreach. The credit union teaches essential money management skills through interactive reality fairs and classroom presentations with hands-on experiences that help students build financial literacy

skills that will last a lifetime.

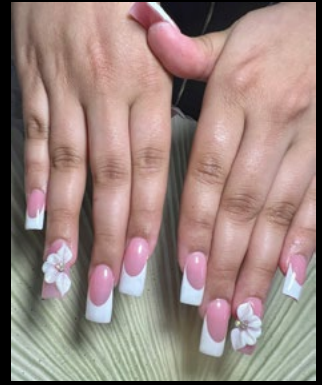
Additionally, the credit union volunteers annually at the Taylor Schools Special Olympics, works with Sleep in Heavenly Peace to help build beds for children in need and is actively involved with organizations like the Downriver West Kiwanis Club and the Woodhaven-Brownstown Rotary Club.

"I'm very blessed to have a job where I can see the difference we make in our community," Dennis said.

To learn more about Advantage One Credit Union, visit [www.myaocu.com](http://www.myaocu.com) or call the Brownstown branch at (734) 676-7000.



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# A Strong Foundation

## Green's Family Cleaning Services puts family and community first By Kelsi Klein

**G**REEN'S Family Cleaning Services is more than a cleaning company. The family-owned and operated business is built on trust, community involvement and genuine care and concern for the people it serves.

For owners Makayla and Robert Green, "family" isn't just a word or part of the business name, but the foundation of how they operate daily.

With more than 15 years of experience serving Livonia, Taylor, Woodhaven and surrounding areas, Green's Family Cleaning Services has built a reputation for reliable service, attention to detail and strong relationships with their clientele.

"We have always been driven by family and community in the things that we do," said Makayla Green.

The company offers professional residential and commercial cleaning and specializes in carpet cleaning, upholstery cleaning and air duct cleaning, using top-of-the-line equipment and techniques that work.

### Efficient carpet cleaning

Green's Family Cleaning Services specializes in deep yet gentle carpet cleaning that goes far beyond the surface and makes carpets look just as vibrant and inviting as the day they were installed.

Their residential and commercial carpet cleaning services target dirt, allergens and pollutants that can become embedded deep within carpet fibers. This comprehensive approach restores carpets – whether they need spot treatment or a deep cleaning – from the inside out.

### Top-quality upholstery care

In addition to carpets, Green's Family Cleaning Services offers professional upholstery cleaning to help customers elevate the look and feel of their furniture.

Their skilled team has the expertise to handle a variety of furniture types, specializing in sofas and couches, loveseats, recliners, armchairs, dining chairs, mattresses and more.

The goal of this service is to restore both the appearance and comfort of furniture while also extending its lifespan.

### Air duct cleaning

A truly clean space goes beyond what is seen at the surface level. Green's Family Cleaning Services offer air duct cleaning solutions to help improve indoor air quality in homes and businesses.

Air ducts often go unnoticed during routine cleaning and over time, dust, allergens and other pollutants can accumulate, leading to potential health risks and reduced HVAC efficiency.



The professional and thorough air duct cleaning services provide a fresher, healthier environment for both homes and commercial spaces.



### Rooted in community and small business support

The Greens know what it takes to operate a family-run business in a world of big-name commercial companies and are dedicated to strengthening the community and giving back.

"I personally have always tried to support small businesses whenever I can," said Green, who has started a series on the Green's Family Cleaning Services Facebook page giving shout outs to other local businesses.

Green is also actively involved in sponsoring and coaching little league teams with Taylor North, volunteering with the Senior Alliance to deliver meals on holidays, packing and donating backpacks to children in need, supporting organizations that feed the homeless and much more.

The company also partners with Cleaning for a Reason to provide free house cleaning services for cancer patients.

To learn more or to schedule a service, visit [www.greensfamilycleaningservices.com](http://www.greensfamilycleaningservices.com) or call (734) 341-6175.



## FRIENDS OF THE TAYLOR COMMUNITY LIBRARY'S NEXT USED BOOK SALE IS SATURDAY, JULY 11

**T**HE next used book sale scheduled by the Friends of the Taylor Community Library is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, July 11, at the library, located at 12303 Pardee Road on the campus of Heritage Park.

"Downriver's best used book sale" returns for the summer with thousands of affordable books ready to find new homes. Proceeds from the sale provide funding for worthwhile programs and equipment for the Taylor library. Funds raised have gone toward the seasonal reading programs, special events, library improvements, collections and other key expenses.

The Friends are accepting gently used hardcover and paperback books for inclusion in the summer sale. Those interested in contributing to the sale are invited to bring the books to the back door of the library during normal business hours. DVDs, CDs, records albums, CD audiobooks and even puzzles in excellent to good condition are also accepted.

Thanks to all who have donated books for previous sales. Most books and other items range in price from 50 cents to \$1 during the sale.

The Friends are also collecting school supplies for Taylor

School District students in need.

Visitors who donate supplies can select a free book during the sale. Items of need on the schools' Family Resource Center wish list include notebooks, pens and pencils, erasers, crayons and markers, rulers, backpacks, binders and folder, calculators, glue sticks, scissors, socks and underwear.

Those interested in joining the Friends of the Library group can sign up at the library website, <https://taylor.lib.mi.us/about/friends-of-the-library/> or ask a library staff member for more details. The library can be reached by phone at 734.287.4840.

Dates of future book sales will be announced on the library's calendar and on the library Facebook page. Some books are always available for purchase on the wooden bookshelf just inside the library.



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# The Wall That Heals

## Medal of Honor recipient will be keynote speaker as event kicks off August 13

**M**EDAL of Honor recipient Retired Command Sergeant Major Terry P. Richardson will be the keynote speaker during the “Welcome Home Ceremony” when The Wall That Heals makes its appearance in Taylor in early August.

The Wall That Heals, a traveling replica of the Vietnam Memorial, will visit Heritage Park Thursday, August 13 through Sunday, August 16. The Welcome Home Ceremony featuring Sergeant Major Richardson will take place at 10 a.m. August 13.

Richardson was born in Cass City, Michigan, in 1948. He was the oldest of 13 children and grew up working on his family’s 80-acre farm and his father’s gasoline station. After graduating from Akron-Fairgrove High School in 1966, Richardson was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1967.

As the Vietnam War unfolded overseas, Richardson worked his way through basic training in Fort Knox, Kentucky, and Infantry Advanced Individual Training at Fort McClellan, Alabama. He graduated with honors and a promotion to staff sergeant from Fort Benning, Georgia in 1968.

Richardson was deployed to Vietnam in May 1968, as a member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division. The year was a pivotal point in the Vietnam War, marked by the Tet Offensive, peak U.S. troop involvement and significant military and political consequences.

By September of that year, Richardson’s platoon was ambushed by North Vietnamese forces near Loc Ninh during the battle for Hill 222.

Under intense fire, Richardson repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire in an effort rescue three wounded soldiers and then organized the withdrawal of his platoon. He climbed a strategic hill to direct air strikes against enemy positions. He remained on that hill for seven hours despite sniper fire, a heroic effort credited with saving the lives of 85 fellow soldiers.

Richardson retired from the Army as a command sergeant major from Camp Grayling, Michigan, in July 2008.

He was awarded the Medal of Honor in March 2026 by President Donald Trump. The medal, the United States’ highest military decoration, recognizes acts of valor that go above and beyond the call of duty.

Since its creation, 3,547 Medals of Honor have been awarded, starting in the Civil War down through the Indian Wars, Spanish-American War, Philippine-American



War, World War I and II, Korean War, Vietnam War and other modern-day conflicts.

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 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).

The local committee coordinating the event said that volunteers will 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.

To learn more about the effort and the event, go to [TheWallThatHealsTaylor2026.com](http://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/TWHTTaylor2026](https://facebook.com/TWHTTaylor2026)) will feature the latest updates, spotlight Vietnam War heroes, share fundraising news and more.



# BRIGHT FUTURES

*Taylor Virtual Learning Academy gives students another way to receive a high school diploma* By Kelsi Klein

**T**AYLOR School District is proud to offer Taylor Virtual Learning Academy, an innovative virtual hybrid alternative 6-12 school designed to meet the diverse needs of today's students. This unique program blends the convenience of online learning with the support of in-person resources, creating a flexible, personalized and student-centered educational experience.



Students at TVLA graduate in the same ceremony and participate in in-person events with the district's comprehensive high school, Taylor High School.

At TVLA, students can learn at their own pace while still receiving the guidance of certified teachers and academic mentors as well as receiving in-person support and tutoring.

But Taylor Virtual Learning Academy isn't just about academics – it's about helping students grow in all areas of life. TVLA also places a strong focus on social-emotional wellness, offering access to counselors, peer groups and mental health resources. Life skills, career readiness and college planning are also built into the curriculum, ensuring every student leaves prepared for the future.

TVLA is uniquely able to combine the small school feel with the resources of a large school district. With that, each graduate is a personal and meaningful success story. Here are a few of them:

## Autumn Smith

Autumn enrolled at TVLA in 2024 and demonstrated determination and grit from the start. During her time at TVLA, she worked diligently through every class to earn her full high school diploma. She has proven herself to be academically responsible, committed to her future and dedicated to her success.

In addition, Autumn participated in the nursing program for two years at the Taylor Career Center in preparation for a career in the medical field.

Autumn represents what it means to be a TVLA student – resilience, hardworking and future-focused. She was awarded the prestigious Principals Award for her hard work at TVLA.



This fall, Autumn will attend Schoolcraft College, where she will pursue a degree in sonography.

## Loki Glowinski

Loki Glowinski was selected by staff to represent TVLA at the combined Taylor High School commencement ceremony on May 28. He delivered a moving speech in which he praised the support of the teachers and staff at TVLA.

During his time at TVLA, Loki took full advantage of every opportunity available to him, with successful completion of hybrid courses at both Taylor High School and the Taylor Career Center.

He represented TVLA on the Superintendent Student Advisory Committee and at DECA, where he earned several awards.

Loki will be attending Schoolcraft College this fall and aspires to run for President of the United States of America someday.



## Jaylah Cyr

Jaylah attended TVLA for all four years of high school. She was a hybrid student who took classes at the Taylor Career Center for two years, where she studied culinary arts.

She represented both TVLA and the Career Center at the statewide ProStart Pasta Competition, where her dish, "Sun and Cream Ravioli" took sixth place.

Jaylah was the only one of three students to pass her ServSafe certification and has proven to be an incredible student during her high school career with a bright future ahead of her.

This fall, Jaylah will be attending Schoolcraft College.

For more information about TVLA, including enrollment, visit [www.taylorschools.net/tvla](http://www.taylorschools.net/tvla) or contact the program office at (313) 295-5757 x 12815.



# Solid Financial Footing

## City approves newest budget while continuing to add to 'rainy-day' fund

**C**ITY Council unanimously approved in April the Taylor General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2026-27 and the Omnibus Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2025-26.

Over the last decade and a half, the City's financial picture has stabilized. The overall general budget of \$54.6 million for 2026-27 includes a modest addition of \$160,774 to the general fund balance (or rainy-day fund). The total fund balance is estimated to be \$23.7 million or 43.6% of expenditure.

While this is a solid financial picture by any estimation, the budgeted general fund expenditure of \$54.4 million is a decrease of approximately \$6.6 million (10.8%) from the previous year's budget, thanks to decrease in related federal and state grants.

During the process of approving the 2026-27 budget, the administration requested approval for an "omnibus" amendment to the current year budget. Omnibus implies combining multiple amendments into one approval. This action has historically been done during the budget approval. The following is an overview of the omnibus FY26 projected budget:

**The FY26 general fund** projected revenue over expenditures estimated to be a negative \$3,141,080. This amount is \$17,858 more favorable than the current budget estimated amount. The estimated total fund balance at the end of FY26 is estimated to be \$23.6 million or approximately 38.6% of total fund expenditure. Below are explanations for notable changes from the current budget to the projected ending balance for FY26.

### General Fund Revenues:

- Licenses and permits revenue decreased by \$92,014 or 9.2%. The decrease is based on less than anticipated franchise and Public, Educational and Government fees received from cable companies. Franchise fees are calculated based on revenue from cable providers and are lower when households switch from traditional cable TV to internet streaming services.
- Charges for services revenue decreased by \$381,000 or 8.2%. The decrease is mainly driven by less than anticipated revenue collected from medical ALS services.
- Other revenue increased by \$404,000 or 4.6%. The increase is one-time revenue related to the annual Taylor Community Development Corporation cost sharing. The prior year's annual cost sharing allocation had to be recorded as a carryover to the current year.

### General Fund Expenditures:

- Mayor's office expenditure is expected to decrease by \$44,400 or 10.2%. The change is related to the reduction of one full-time employee. The employee filled a vacancy in another department and there are

no plans to replace the full-time position at this time.

- Treasurer expenditures are expected to increase by \$66,900 or 17.5%, with \$43,000 of the increase related to payout of compensated absences for employees who retired or left. The remaining change is related to higher than anticipated postage costs. Most of the postage costs are charged to treasury.
- General Administration expenditures are expected to decrease by \$601,534 or 57.6%. There was a line-item in this department which accounted for the estimated cost of the fire and command labor contracts. Since these contracts were approved, the funds should be redistributed to the appropriate department budgets.
- Employee Fringe Benefits department expenditures are expected to decrease by \$222,380 or 4.4%. The decrease is related to a lower than anticipated allocation of the annual general pension plan contribution from the general fund.
- Fire Department expenditures are expected to increase by \$427,098 or 4.1%. The increase is related to labor costs approved in the recent fire collective bargaining agreement. The increase is offset by redistribution of the budget from the General Administration department.

### 2026-27 Budget Analysis

The proposed budget estimates adding \$160,774 to the general fund balance (or rainy-day fund) for FY27. Total general fund balance at the end of the fiscal year is estimated to be \$23.7 million or approximately 43.6% of total expenditure. It is important to ensure operating expenditure does not exceed operating revenues and appropriate levels of fund balance are maintained.

Total general fund budgeted revenues are estimated to be \$54.6 million, which is a decrease of \$3.3 million or 5.7% from the projected FY26 budget. There is approximately \$6.3 million decrease in onetime federal and state grants from the prior year including American Rescue Plan Act funds. These decreases were offset by projected increases in contributions from other local governments and revenue such as fire ALS collections and revenue generated by police school resource officer programs.

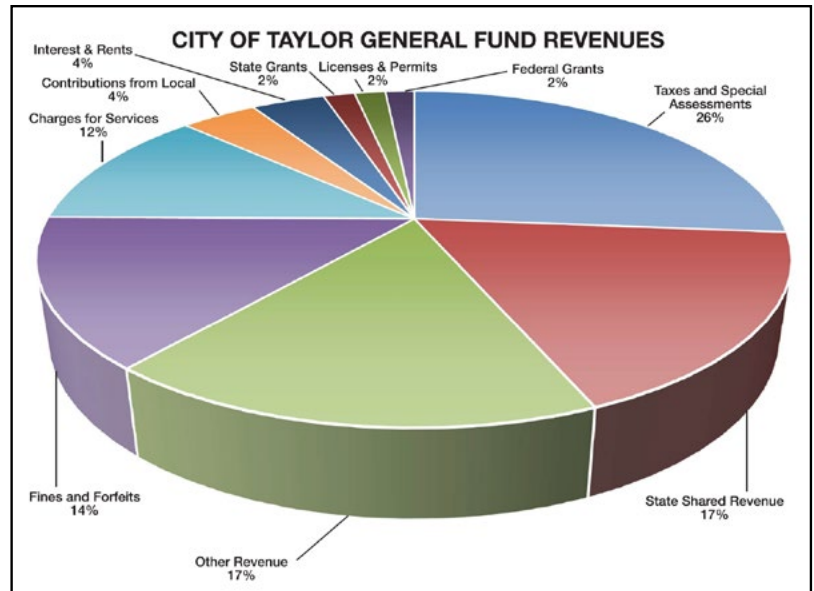
Total general fund budgeted expenditures are estimated to be \$54.4 million which is a decrease of approximately \$6.6 million or 10.8% from the FY26 projected budget. Approximately \$5.7 million of the decrease is related to one-time federal and state grant expenditures incurred in the prior year. Some highlights of the budget are as follows:

### Property taxes:

- The proposed City tax rate of 24.9339 mills is estimated to decrease by 0.2993 mills compared to the FY26 tax rate. The Act 345 levy, Act 179 levy and

Building Authority levy are based upon obligations of the City and can increase and decrease annually based on the obligation amount. The estimated decrease is related to the Act 345 levy based on a reduced public safety pension contribution for the fiscal year.

- The total taxable value of real and personal property is estimated to be \$1.9 billion which is a year-over-year increase of approximately \$102.4 million or 5.6%. The estimated assessed value is expected to increase to \$2.9 billion. Even though assessed values have increased at a higher rate, taxable values are limited to the statutory limits according to Proposal A and the Headlee Amendment.



**General Fund Revenues:**

Overall, general fund revenues are expected to decrease by \$3.3 million or 5.7%. Following are highlights of notable changes compared to the projected FY26 budget, as well as other significant items.

- Total tax and related revenues are expected to increase by \$667,000 or 5.2%. This increase is based on the increase in taxable valuation per the city assessing department.
- Total federal grant revenues are expected to decrease by \$5 million or 85.4%. This decrease is related to less federal ARPA grant money being allocated this upcoming year compared to FY26 budget. Since ARPA funds were mainly used to offset one-time expenditures, the impact is significant on the operating budget.
- Total state grant revenues are expected to decrease by \$1.3 million or 58.3%. This decrease is related to a one-time MEDC and State Enhancement grants which were used for park and recreation improvements in the prior year.
- Total state revenue sharing is expected to be \$9.5 million, which is an increase of \$193,000 or 2.1%. This amount is based on projections from the State of Michigan, including public safety portion.
- Contributions from Local Government is expected to increase by \$1.6 million or 275.4%. This increase is based on an anticipated surplus cash distribution from the TCDC subject to board approval. TCDC contributes surplus cash to the City which is considered a return of investment related to the 1996 voter levy.
- Charges for services revenue is expected to increase by \$615,750 or 14.5%. The increase is related to higher projected ALS fire revenue and revenue generated by a new police school

**General Fund Expenditures:**

Overall, general fund expenditure is expected to decrease by approximately \$6.6 million or 10.8%. Following are explanations for notable changes compared to the projected FY26 budget, as well as other significant items.

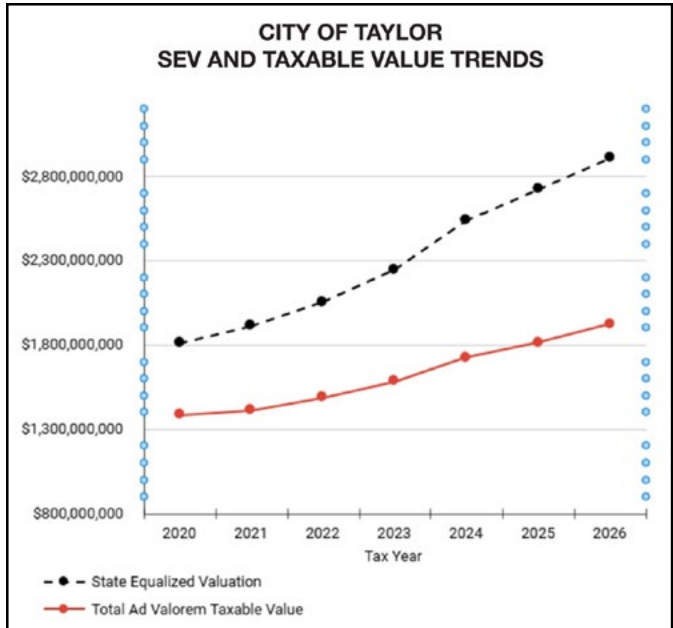
- City Clerk department expenditures are expected to increase by \$121,620 or 17.5%. The increase is related to employee contractual increases and election worker/supply costs.
- Information Technology expenditures are expected to decrease by \$173,391 million or 14.2%. The decrease is related to one-time costs funded through the ARPA grant.
- Treasurer expenditures are expected to decrease by \$101,270 or 22.6%, with \$42,000 of the decrease is related to one-time compensated absence payout which was incurred in the prior year. A \$55,000 decrease is due to the reallocation of postage costs to the court budget which accounts for most of the postage in the city.
- General Administration expenditures are expected to decrease by \$163,427 or 36.9%. The decrease is related to one-time purchase of city-wide technology which was funded through the ARPA grant in the prior year.
- Customer Assistance Center expenditures are expected to decrease by \$487,900 or 100%. The Customer Assistance Center department is being merged with the building department which is in a separate fund. Because most of the work conducted is related to building inspection/permit activities, this merger will provide better services for the residents and businesses in the City. This decrease is offset by less overhead revenue from the Building Department fund.

- Employee Fringe Benefits expenditures are expected to increase by \$322,680 or 6.6%. The amount is based on estimated increase in costs related to pension and retiree health care.
- 23rd District Court expenditures are expected to increase by \$315,070 or 9.9%. The increase is based on estimated increase in employee costs related to contracts and the reallocation of postage costs from the Treasurer.
- Fire department expenditure is expected to decrease by \$2 million or 18.9%. The decrease is related to one-time purchases of fire vehicles and equipment which were in the prior year.
- Department of Public Works expenditures are expected to decrease by \$369,030 or 13.6%. The decrease is related to one-time purchases of DPW vehicles and equipment which were in the prior year.
- Motor Vehicle Pool expenditures are expected to increase by \$117,310 or 10.5%. The increase is related to costs associated with fuel purchases and vehicle repair/maintenance.
- Parks and Recreation Department expenditure is expected to decrease by \$4.8 million or 86.4%. The decrease is due to one-time capital expenditure estimated to be spent in the prior year. The capital expenditure is related to the Lange Park project and was reimbursed by ARPA grant funds.

**Special Revenue Funds** are used to account for specific activities that in most cases have legal or regulatory restrictions on how their revenues can be expended. The following 15 special revenue funds are included in the budget: Major Road, Local Roads, Police and Fire Retirement, Building and Grounds, Act 179 Fund, Building Department Fund, Treasury Forfeiture, Justice Forfeiture, State Forfeiture, State OWI Fund, DARE Fund, Tree Replacement Fund, NSP Fund, MIDC Grant Fund and Opioid Settlement Fund.

Listed are some selected highlights regarding the proposed special revenue fund budgets:

- Major and Local Road Fund Act 51 gas tax revenues are anticipated to be \$9.36 million which is an increase of 9.0%. The increase is based on estimates released by the State of Michigan during the January/February 2026 revenue estimating conference. Total annual expenditure between the two funds is expected to be \$9.34 million (net of the operating transfer between the funds) which includes the debt service related to MTF bonds. This will leave an estimated fund balance of \$1.5 million in the major road fund and \$968,054 in the local road fund, or 21.4% and 16.5% of total expenditure respectively.
- The Police and Fire Retirement fund receives funding from a voter-approved levy (Act 345). This levy is estimated to generate \$12.3 million in net tax revenue.



The FY27 liability for police and fire retirement expenditures is estimated to be \$12.4 million. The ending fund balance on June 30, 2027, is estimated to be \$944,445. It is recommended that the City keep reviewing costs to maintain the millage rate at an appropriate level. If costs increase more than the increase in taxable values, the related Act 345 levy may have to be increased.

- The Building and Grounds fund has a dedicated millage to pay for the lease obligations related to the Taylor Building Authority. The lease obligations include bond debt, operations and maintenance related to city buildings and adjacent property. The estimated amount of taxes to be collected from this levy is \$5.0 million. Projected expenditure is estimated to be \$5.4 million. The fund balance on June 30, 2027, is estimated to be \$747,724 million or 13.9% of total expenditure.
- The Act 179 Rubbish fund has dedicated millages for rubbish collection and for operating a compost and animal shelter. The fund is projected to add \$319,596 to fund balance. The ending fund balance on June 30, 2027, is estimated to be \$1.8 million or 23.5% of total expenditure. The Building Department Fund is funded entirely through building/rental registration and inspection fees. Total estimated revenue is expected to be \$3.1 million. Total expenditure is estimated to be \$3.1 million. The fund balance on June 30, 2027, is estimated to be \$667,035 which is 21.9% of total fund expenditures. The increase in personnel costs is related to the merger of the customer assistance center from the general fund. This cost is offset by decrease in overhead owing to the general fund.
- The Opioid Settlement Fund accounts for funds related

to the national opioid settlements which are being distributed to local communities over several years. The annual amount of revenue is around \$76,000 based on estimates. In FY27 the amount available to spend is estimated to be \$541,892 if no funds are spent in the current year. Funds are restricted to expenditures related to opioid remediation.

**Enterprise Funds** the following four areas: Golf Course Fund, Sewer Fund, Water Fund and Ecorse Creek Fund. Enterprise funds are used to account for operations that provide services that are intended to be financed entirely by user charges for those services. Listed below are some selected highlights of note regarding the proposed enterprise fund budgets:

- The Golf Course Fund accounts for all activities at the two City-owned golf courses. The fund is anticipated to end FY26 with an operating reserve of \$1.9 million. While the FY27 budget is estimated to have an operating surplus of \$77,570 and an ending reserve of \$2.0 million, the courses are expecting a couple challenging years due to course renovations. Since both golf courses are in the TIFA district, most capital expenditures can be funded by TIFA.
- The Sewer fund is expected to generate revenue of \$11.2 million. Expenses are estimated to be \$11.1

million. The fund's operating and capital reserve on June 30, 2027, is estimated to be \$6.2 million. Even though this amount is not remotely close to the cost of the entire sewer system infrastructure, it can be used, and should be used, for the non-routine maintenance and replacement of the City's aging sewer system infrastructure. There is an estimated \$900,000 million in sewer system improvements budgeted.

- The Water fund is expected to generate revenue of \$13.4 million. Expenses are estimated to be \$13.2 million. The fund's operating and capital reserve on June 30, 2027, is estimated to be \$9.1 million. This amount is not close to the cost of the entire water system infrastructure. It can be used, and should be used, for the non-routine maintenance and replacement of the City's water system infrastructure. There is an estimated \$1,175,000 million of water system improvements budgeted.
- The Ecorse Creek fund is expected to generate revenue of \$484,500. Expenses are estimated to be \$494,337. This fund accounts for operations and debt related to the Ecorse Creek sewer system which is owned by Wayne County.

You can view the entire budget online at [cityoftaylor.com](http://cityoftaylor.com) under budget and financial reports.

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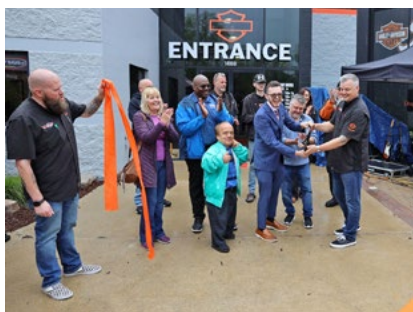
CITY OF TAYLOR

# Business News

## Motown Harley-Davidson celebrates re-grand opening of heavily upgraded facility

Motown Harley-Davidson (14100 Telegraph Road), one of the more popular places for cyclists to hang out on the weekends, held a re-grand opening on May 16-17.

Motown has invested \$1.5 million in the facility, which sells new and used Harleys and offers Harley-Davidson Riding Academy, along with related accessories and much more.



The weekend featured great food and drinks. Musical entertainment was provided by WRIF radio.

Planning Director Lora Fell attended the re-grand opening, along with Treasurer Nick Dragone and City Councilmen Christian Armstrong, Ron Thiede and Gerald Thomas – Councilman Armstrong even helped cut the ceremonial ribbon.

The recent \$1.5 million investment included several major upgrades designed to improve both customer experience and dealership operations, including:

- Relocation of the Rider's Academy indoors
- Increased showroom floor space for both motorcycles and MotorClothes merchandise
- New customer-focused sales workstations to better serve guests
- Installation of digital banner systems for "real-time" promotions and incentive awareness
- Updated lifestyle displays featuring current Harley-Davidson models, accessories, and apparel
- Overall modernization of the facility layout and customer experience

One of the biggest impacts on the dealership and the surrounding community is the amount of traffic generated through year-round events and activities. Motown Harley-Davidson hosts regular bike nights, charity rides, workshops, live entertainment, and community-focused events that consistently bring visitors into Taylor from across Michigan and neighboring states.

A major example is the upcoming Motown Harley-Davidson BikeFest on July 17-19, which is expected to draw thousands of visitors throughout the weekend and will feature tons of live music, vendors, stunt shows, Downriver foodfest, entertainment, and fundraising efforts benefiting veterans and those who have served. Events

like BikeFest not only create excitement around the dealership but also generate increased traffic and visibility for local restaurants, hotels, and surrounding businesses in the Taylor area.

Whether you are a motorcycle owner or not, Motown Harley-Davidson and its beautiful showroom are worth a visit. Its regular hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays-Fridays; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays. For more information, call (734) 403-4804 or click on [motownharley.com](http://motownharley.com).

## Midway Sports & Entertainment enhances driving range with Power Tee

Golfers in the Detroit metro area have a new reason to visit the driving range at Midway Sports & Entertainment. The long-standing entertainment destination – celebrating its 75th anniversary in the city – has upgraded its practice facility with the installation of the world-leading automated teeing system from Power Tee in every hitting bay.



The installation allows golfers to practice more efficiently by automatically teeing a ball at the push of a button, allowing golfers to maintain a consistent stance and rhythm while reducing physical strain on high-quality hitting surfaces. The result is a smoother, more comfortable practice experience that keeps players focused on their swing.

The installation of 50 Power Tee auto-teeing systems arrives during a milestone year for both companies. While Midway Sports & Entertainment celebrates 75 years in business, Power Tee marks 30 years.

For Jason Kroll, owner of Midway Sports & Entertainment, the investment reflects the facility's commitment to continuous improvement. "Midway has been part of this community for 75 years, and we're always looking for ways to make the experience better for our customers," he said. "We're excited for local golfers to come out and try it."

Midway Sports & Entertainment has been a favorite spot for generations of families and golfers alike. As part of its 75th anniversary celebration, Midway Sports & Entertainment is offering local golfers seasonal membership in the "1951 Club" from March to October every year. At \$20 per month, members receive:

- 25 percent discount on all range baskets.
- Early access: Entry to the facility one hour prior to general admission.
- Value-driven offers: Membership costs are fully recouped in just five visits per month.

For more details, contact Midway at (313) 277-9156, or visit [midwayfun.com](http://midwayfun.com).

### Sheetz opens first of two new locations in Taylor

One of two new Sheetz convenience and gasoline locations held its grand opening in early May. This



Eureka Road location is near I-75, directly in front of the new Marriott Hotel sites. A second location is nearing completion on Telegraph Road near Champaign Street.

Mayor Tim Woolley along with a contingent of members of the City Council, city employees and members of the Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber were in attendance. A large crowd enjoyed the celebration on a mild sunny day. The event featured giveaways and raffle prizes for lucky winners, including \$2,500 donations to Special Olympics and Forgotten Harvest Food Pantry – and made a big pitch for their own Sheetz for Kidz program.

These are the first two Sheetz locations in Taylor after one opened in Romulus over a year ago. Sheetz, founded in Pennsylvania, is famous for an innovative convenience store experience including made-to-order food, 24/7 service and specialty beverages.

### Cycle Gear fills vacant spot in the Pardee Road corridor

Cycle Gear, a company dedicated to motorcycle enthusiasts, has moved into 14440 Pardee Road, near Texas Roadhouse. This is only the third Cycle Gear location in Michigan, with the others in Novi and Sterling Heights. It held a grand opening in late May.

The company offers a wide range of items, from riding gear to helmets, accessories, parts, tires and more. Customers can reserve items online and buy them in the store, have items shipped free to your store of choice and pick up your purchase curbside.

The company was started in 1974 by three Richmond, CA, natives. Dave Bertram joined the group in 1982 and



gave it strategic direction. By 1995, Bertram had bought out the original partners and developed an employee stock ownership program. While

he had an incredible employee team, the organization didn't have a lot of funding, limiting expansion to two or three sites annually.

As a result, three years later, Cycle Gear brought in private equity investment and quickly grew from six to 45 stores. It now has 165 stores in 39 states and an e-commerce website.

For more information on Cycle Gear, call (734) 224-2510, text (734) 245-2948 or click on [cyclegear.com](http://cyclegear.com).



### Beneficial Beauty moves into Eureka Road corridor

Beneficial Beauty provides quality cosmetology services to the area and opened earlier this year at 23911 Eureka Road near Telegraph Road.

Owner Biana Epps overcame many setbacks – including a tragic fire and a serious illness – to finish cosmetology school. This is her first business.

Mayor Tim Woolley, Clerk Cindy Bower and City Councilmen Gerald Thomas, Bill Patts and Dan Wallace welcomed into Taylor during its grand opening. Members of the Southern Wayne Regional Chamber were also on hand with friends and relatives of Epps and staff. Epps

For more information click on the salon's Facebook page at Beneficial Beauty or go to its website at [glossgenius.com](http://glossgenius.com).

*Business continued on page 30*

# Business News

Business continued from page 29



## Michigan Title moves to Superior Road location

Michigan Title Insurance Agency moved from its old location on Telegraph Road into a new building on Superior Blvd. earlier this year.

Mayor Tim Woolley, Clerk Cindy Bower and other City staff joined with the Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber to welcome the company to its new office space.

Michigan Title offers an extensive list of services for all real estate closing needs, focusing on realtor, customer, lender and commercial transactions. Michigan Title is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Its new location is Suite 130 at 20300 Superior. Call (313) 291-2323 or click on michigantitle.com for more information.

## Cricket moves into two new locations

Cricket Wireless locations at 12355 Telegraph Road and 21713 Ecorse Road held grand openings earlier this year. Cricket advocates for the customers' freedom to choose a mobile carrier without being tied down by contracts.

The Telegraph location is open Mondays through Saturdays, from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Call (313) 355-6333 for more information.

The Ecorse location is open Mondays through Saturdays, from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. and on Sundays from noon-5.



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# TURNING 30

## Mayor honors SEMCA for cultivating the workforce through partnerships

**S**EMCA is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. The Southeast Michigan Community Alliance is a non-profit organization dedicated to workforce development and human services in Monroe and Out-Wayne County. Its mission is to provide innovative leadership to create an inclusive, life-long talent and career development system that responds to labor market and industry demands.

SEMCA administers various human service programs including:

- **Workforce development:** It partners with local organizations to offer training and employment services, helping individuals gain the skills needed for in-demand jobs.
- **Talent development:** The organization focuses on recruiting and training skilled workers, particularly in the construction industry, to address shortages.
- **Community partnerships:** SEMCA works with educational institutions, businesses and community organizations to enhance career opportunities for residents.

For three decades, SEMCA has been in Taylor. Earlier this year, Mayor Tim Woolley joined the organization's staff and Chief Executive Officer Gregory Pitoniak at Wayne County Community College's Downriver Campus to present SEMCA with a proclamation recognizing the anniversary.

Pitoniak is a former Taylor mayor (1997-2005) and state legislator (1991-1998). He has served as the SEMCA CEO since June 2007, after previously serving as deputy state treasurer for the State of Michigan. He also served as the executive director of the Economic Development

Corporation of Wayne County.

Just last year, SEMCA Michigan Works provided services to 171,724 residents and 3,184 businesses in Monroe and Wayne counties. More than 102,000 visits were made to its American Job Centers, which are in Dearborn, Highland Park, Monroe, Wayne and Wyandotte, SEMCA provided services to 101 businesses and 7,468 individuals in Taylor in 2025, The organization's Going PRO Talent Fund Impacted seven business and 41 individuals in Taylor.

These statistics reflect the total number of residents of the identified communities who received employment service, career planning or training funding at one of SEMCA's five American Job Centers or specialized service location from one of the following programs:

- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) include Dislocated Worker, Adult and Youth Programs
- Trade Adjustment Act (TAA)
- Employment Service (Wagner Peyser Act)
- Partnership. Accountability, Training. Hope. (PATH) Welfare
- Reform
- Food Assistance Employment and Training (FAE&T)
- One Workforce Industry Infinity
- Going PRO Apprenticeship Certification and Training
- Jobs for Michigan Graduates (JMG)

For more on SEMCA, visit its website at [SEMCAiWorks.org](http://SEMCAiWorks.org).



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Bishop Gary and Lady Pamela Harper • [www.ggtoghm.org](http://www.ggtoghm.org) • 313-295-4472

Greater Grace Temple-Taylor  
24111 Koths St., Taylor, MI 48180

Sunday Bible School - 9:15 AM  
Sunday Morning Worship - 11:00 AM  
Bible Class • Wed., 11:00 AM & 7:00 PM

**New Wine Community Church**



Sunday Service at 11:00 am • 8250 Pardee Road • Taylor 48180  
**Bob Jeannot, Senior Pastor** | 734-922-5630 | **Jim Olson, Pastor**  
[www.newwinecommunity.org](http://www.newwinecommunity.org)

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



Founded 1878

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 Sunday School 11:00 am

13115 Telegraph Road, Taylor, MI 48180  
 734-287-2080  
 Website - [stjohnstaylor.org](http://stjohnstaylor.org)  
 YouTube - St John's Lutheran Taylor, MI

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



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



For more information, please call 734-718-0483 or visit [www.STEPcentral.org](http://www.STEPcentral.org)



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# 2025 Water Quality Report

Drinking water quality is important to our community and the region. The City of Taylor and the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) are committed to meeting state and federal water quality standards including the Lead and Copper Rule. With the Great Lakes as our water source and proven treatment technologies, the GLWA consistently delivers safe drinking water to our community.

Taylor operates the system of water mains that carry this water to your home's service line. This year's Water Quality Report highlights the performance of GLWA and Taylor water professionals in delivering some of the nation's best drinking water. Together, we remain committed to protecting public health and maintaining open communication with the public about our drinking water.

Safe drinking water is a shared responsibility. The water that the GLWA delivers to our community does not contain lead. Lead can leach into drinking water through home plumbing fixtures, and in some cases, customer service lines. Corrosion control reduces the risk of lead and copper from leach into your water. Orthophosphates are added during the treatment process as a corrosion control method to create a protective coating in the service pipes throughout the system, including your home or business.

The City of Taylor performs required lead and copper sampling and testing in our community. Water consumers also have a responsibility to maintain the plumbing in their homes and businesses, and can take steps to limit exposure to lead.

## Where does my water come from?

Your source water comes from the Detroit River, situated within the Lake St. Clair, Clinton River, Detroit River, Rouge River, Ecorse River, watersheds in the U.S. and parts of the Thames River, Little River, Turkey Creek, and Sydenham watersheds in Canada. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, and the Michigan Public Health Institute performed a source water assessment in 2004 to determine the susceptibility of GLWA's Detroit River source water for potential contamination. The susceptibility rating is based on a seven-tiered scale and ranges from very low to very high determined primarily using geologic sensitivity, water chemistry, and potential contaminant sources. The report described GLWA's Detroit River intakes as highly susceptible to potential contamination. GLWA's Southwest water treatment plant that draws water from the Detroit River has historically provided satisfactory treatment and meets drinking water standards.

GLWA has initiated source-water protection activities that include chemical containment, spill response, and a mercury reduction program. GLWA participates in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit discharge program and has an emergency response management plan. GLWA has an updated Surface Water Intake Protection plan for the Fighting Island Intake. The plan has seven elements that include: roles and duties of government units and water supply agencies, delineation

of a source water protection areas, identification of potential sources of contamination, management approaches for protection, contingency plans, siting of new water sources, public participation, and public education activities. If you would like to know more information about the Source Water Assessment Report, please contact GLWA at (313) 926-8127.

## Important health information

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it can dissolve naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

**Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

**Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharge, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

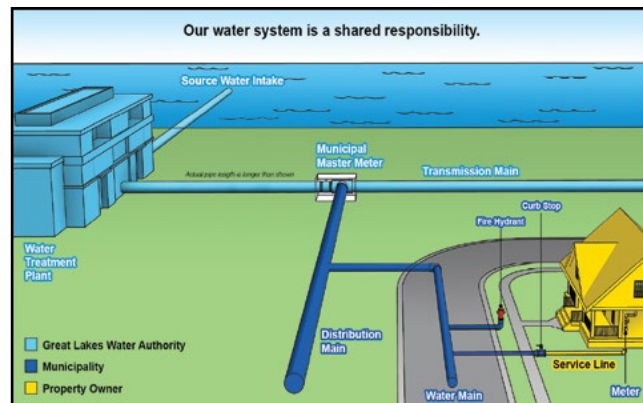
**Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

**Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in the water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for human health.

## Lead

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both



formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. The City of Taylor is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for at least 5 minutes to flush water from both your home plumbing and the lead service line. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact The City of Taylor (734) 287-6550 for available resources. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead/>.

"There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems."

The City of Taylor has 102 of known lead lines. With an approximately 850 homes that are unknown, out of 19,505 service lines in the City of Taylor. You can view our Complete Distribution System Materials list at <https://www.cityoftaylor.com/227/Water-Sewer-Department>



If you would like to know more about this report, need additional copies or have other water-related issues, please contact the Taylor Water and Sewer Department: (734) 287-6550 Option #8, [www.cityoftaylor.com](http://www.cityoftaylor.com)

## People with special health concerns

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as person with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Taylor and the GLWA are committed to safeguarding our water supply and delivering the highest quality drinking water to protect public health. Please contact us with any questions or concerns about your water.

## 2025 Southwest Regulated Detected Contaminants Table

2025 Inorganic Chemicals - Annual Monitoring at Plant Finished Tap								
Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Health Goal MCLG	Allowed Level MCL	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detection	Violation	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Fluoride	02-11-2025	ppm	4	4	0.50	n/a	no	Erosion of natural deposit; Water additive, which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate	02-11-2025	ppm	10	10	0.35	n/a	no	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

Lead and Copper Monitoring at the Customer's Tap in 2025								
Regulated Contaminant	Unit	Year Sampled	Health Goal MCLG	Action Level AL	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Value*	Range of Individual Samples Results	Number of Samples Over AL	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Lead	ppb	2025	0	12	16	0-38	4	Lead services lines, corrosion of household plumbing including fittings and fixtures; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	ppm	2025	1.3	1.3	0.14	0-0.2	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

\* The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value means 90 percent of the homes tested have lead and copper levels below the given 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value. If the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value is above the AL additional requirements must be met.

2025 Disinfection Residual - Monitoring in the Distribution System								
Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Health Goal MRDLG	Allowed Level MRDL	Highest Level RAA	Range of Quarterly Results	Violation	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Chlorine Residual	2025	ppm	4	4	0.71	0.59-0.79	no	Water additive used to control microbes

2025 Disinfection By-Products - Stage 2 Disinfection By-Products Monitoring in the Distribution System								
Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Health Goal MCLG	Allowed Level MCL	Highest Level LRAA	Range of Quarterly Results	Violation	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2025	ppb	n/a	80	27.6	14-44	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2025	ppb	n/a	60	16.6	7.9-35	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination

2025 Turbidity - Monitored Every 4 Hours at the Plant Finished Water Tap				
Highest Single Measurement Cannot Exceed 1 NTU	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Turbidity Limit of 0.3 NTU (minimum 95%)		Violation	Major Sources in Drinking Water
0.1 NTU	100%		no	Soil Runoff

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system

2025 Special Monitoring						
Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level Detected	Source of Contaminant
Sodium	02-11-2025	ppm	n/a	n/a	6.8	Erosion of natural deposits

Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) is required to notify water users of any unresolved significant deficiencies identified by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, Drinking Water and Environment Health Division (EGLE). Below is the status of significant deficiencies in the GLWA water system identified by EGLE:

Date Identified by EGLE	Description	Compliance Agreement Deadline	Status
08-02-2022	Improper rapid mixing and coagulant feed location at the Southwest water plant	12-31-2027	Contractor is in place and the work has been initiated.
08-02-2022	Inoperable flocculation equipment at the Southwest water plant	07-31-2031	Review stage of procurement process.

### For more information, please contact City of Taylor (734) 287-6550 Option #8

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

## What do these tables mean?

These tables show the results of our water quality analyses. Every regulated and unregulated detected contaminant in the water is listed here. The tables contain contaminant names, the highest detected levels, health goals, the sources in drinking water and if a violation has occurred. Key definitions and/or explanations for each symbol used are listed to the right of the tables.

GLWA voluntarily monitors for Cryptosporidium and Giardia in our untreated source water monthly. The untreated water samples collected from our Southwest plant indicated the presence of one Giardia cyst in March. In addition, monitoring indicated the presence of one Giardia cyst and one Cryptosporidium oocyst in the untreated water from the Southwest plant in July. Additional testing was performed on the treated water at the Southwest plant and Cryptosporidium was absent. All other samples collected in the year 2018 were absent for the presence of Cryptosporidium and Giardia. Systems using surface water like GLWA must provide treatment so that 99.9 percent of Giardia lamblia is removed or inactivated.

Cryptosporidium is a microbial parasite found in surface water throughout the United States. Although Cryptosporidium can be removed by filtration, the most commonly used filtration cannot guarantee 100% removal. Current test methods do not enable us to determine if these organisms are dead or alive.

Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea and abdominal cramps. Most healthy persons can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people (such as those with AIDS, undergoing chemotherapy or recent organ transplant recipients) are at a greater risk of developing a severe, life-threatening illness. Immuno-compromised persons should contact their doctor to learn about appropriate precautions to prevent infection. Cryptosporidium must be taken in through the mouth to cause disease and it may be passed by other means than drinking water.

### Definitions

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**Parts per billion (ppb):** equivalent to micrograms per liter. A microgram = 1/1000 milligram.

**Parts per million (ppm):** equivalent to milligrams per liter. A milligram = 1/1000 gram.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU):** Measures the cloudiness of water.

**Not Detected (ND)**

**Treatment Technique (TT):** required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Action Level (AL):** concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements the water system must follow.

**Haloacetic Acids (HAA5):** total of bromoacetic, chloroacetic, dibromoacetic, dichloroacetic, and trichloroacetic acids. Compliance is based on the total.

**Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM):** Sum of chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform. Compliance is based on the total.

**pCi/l:** Picouries per liter is a measure of radioactivity.

**Location running annual average (LRAA)**

**Micromhos (µmhos):** Measure of electrical conductance of water.

**Celsius (°C):** A scale of temperature in which water freezes at 0° and boils at 100° under standard conditions.

**n/a = not applicable**

**> = greater than**

# Dreams Can Come True

## Raising Cane's is coming to town, but the real story goes much deeper than that

**T**ODD Graves, in many ways, was just a college kid with a dream.

Decades ago, Graves and his friend, Craig Silvey, attended classes at Louisiana State University. Finance majors, they developed a plan for a restaurant that would serve only chicken fingers – no pizza, burgers, salads, etc. Everything would revolve around chicken fingers, fries, coleslaw, Texas toast and their own secret sauce.

Their plan was eventually submitted in class and was so foreign to the professor that it graded out the lowest in the class. The professor called it unworkable and doomed to fail. Undeterred, they tried to make their restaurant idea happen through a small business loan but were again turned away.

So, Graves developed other ideas. He took jobs at an oil refinery, working 90-hour weeks as a boilermaker. A buddy suggested that he try hiring on an Alaskan fishing boat, as a salmon fisherman. The work was very difficult, but the pay was good and Graves eventually returned to Baton Rouge with a lot of cash. More came in loans from friends, family and – finally – even the Small Business Administration.

Graves and Silvey opened the first chicken finger-only restaurant. It was going to be called "Sockeye's" as a tribute to a friend's Labrador in Alaska. But Graves switched gears and named it after his Labrador Retriever, Raising Cane, who often visited the construction

site.

Flash forward: A picture of "Cane I" can be found outside most restaurants. Cane III was born in 2017 and continues the tradition started by Cane I and II. Raising Cane's has turned into one of the most popular quick-serve chicken restaurant chains in the country, behind only Chick fil A and Popeye's.



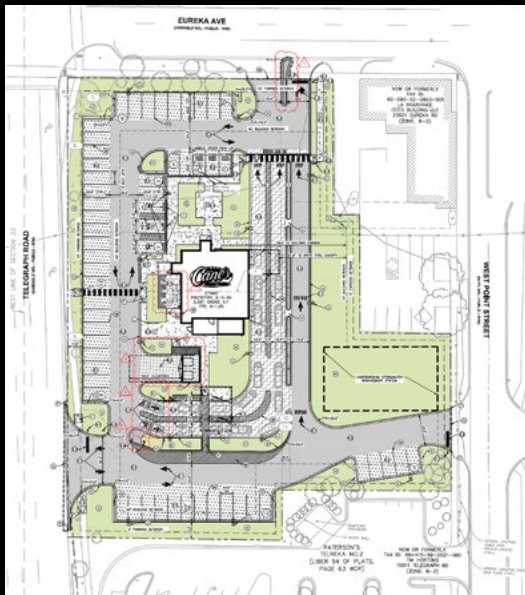
While building their first restaurant, workers found themselves chipping away at one of the interior walls when they unearthed an old mural. The eventual Raising Cane's logo took on the look of that old mural, and murals can now be found in many of the restaurant's locations around the country.

The Taylor location will become the first in the Downriver region after the Planning Commission approved plans for the restaurant last month. It will be located on the southeast corner of Telegraph Road and Eureka, taking the place of a vacant former Walgreen's. Few are excited more than Mayor Tim Woolley.

"I'm very excited that they chose Taylor to be their first location Downriver," Mayor Woolley said. "That fact, in and of itself, is great. But Raising Cane's development will also be taking the place of an existing vacant building. Putting a beautiful new business like this on the Telegraph-Eureka corner is a real plus, especially with a new Kroger moving into the mall behind it. This will mark quite a revitalization (of that corner)."

As of early March, there were over 950 Raising Cane's restaurants operating across the country. It was reported that as of 2025 the chain employed approximately 65,000 and had revenues of \$5.1 billion.

Graves, now co CEO, owns over 90 percent of the company and has no plans to take it public, according to reports. Silvey left the business in 1999, but the partnership's early vision laid the foundation for what is now one of America's fastest growing restaurant chains.



Today, Graves is one of the wealthiest restaurateurs in the U.S., with an estimated net worth of \$22 billion, according to Forbes Magazine, and the story of Graves and Silvey remains a classic example of turning a "bad" idea into a billion dollar success.

# What Makes Taylor Prep Special?

Students and dedicated staff committed to excellence By Terry Jacoby

**T**AYLOR Preparatory High School isn't just a school, it's where dreams come true. And there are many examples from the recent graduating class alone – here are just a few.

Olivia Irvan grew up dreaming of attending the University of Michigan, and this fall the 2026 graduate of Taylor Prep will attend U-M debt-free through a combination of scholarships and grants.

As a first-generation college student, Lenard Davison is making history for his family after earning a full-ride scholarship to U-M following his 2026 graduation. His hard work, determination and commitment to academic excellence helped him achieve a lifelong goal.

Adrian Spencer, another 2026 graduate of Taylor Prep, was just one of 20 recipients of the prestigious Presidential Scholarship to Eastern Michigan University, covering tuition, room and board for four years.

Taylor Preparatory High School is a tuition-free public charter school in Michigan serving students in grades 9-12. The school, founded in 2013 and located on Telegraph Road in Taylor, serves approximately 400 students from Taylor and the surrounding communities each year.

These success stories from Olivia, Lenard and Adrian are not the exception, but the norm at Taylor Prep. The entire Class of 2026 was accepted to a four-year college or university and has been awarded over \$3 million in scholarships.

"Here, families find an education rooted in academic excellence and grounded in values," said Taylor Prep Principal Alaina Dwyer. "We shape instruction to build on the strengths and abilities of each student and integrate Moral Focus lessons into every school day. As a result, our students are well-prepared for high school and beyond."

Taylor Prep is part of the National Heritage Academies (NHA), a for-profit education management organization headquartered in Grand Rapids. Founded in 1995, NHA partners with community groups to build and operate over 100 tuition-free public charter schools across nine states, serving more than 65,000 students in

Adrian Spencer,



Olivia Irvan

kindergarten through 12th grade.

Dwyer began her journey with NHA as a teacher at a school in Southfield before stepping into the role of middle school dean in 2013. When the opportunity to join Taylor Prep opened in 2022, she was "incredibly excited" to continue NHA's mission of transforming lives.

"At Taylor Prep, I have the privilege of helping students prepare not just for college, but for adulthood and all the opportunities that come with it," she said. "While our mission centers on college readiness, my personal mission is to ensure our students are equipped to thrive in whatever path they choose."

And Taylor Prep's report card is impressive. The school has received an A letter grade in peer-to-peer comparison according to the Michigan School Grade System, and the students' proficiency is above the average proficiency of their peers from surrounding schools.

Taylor Prep students have outperformed their local district consistently since 2021 and have outperformed the state during the 2024-2025 school year. And a Stanford University study found National Heritage Academies partner-school students gained the equivalent of three-and-a-half months of additional learning each year compared to peers.

To earn a diploma, students must complete 22 credits, maintain a grade of C- or higher in all courses, successfully pass two AP or college-level courses, gain acceptance to a four-year college or university, complete a senior project that includes a job shadowing experience, and fulfill 60 hours of community service.

"Our students support and encourage one another, and our staff are deeply committed to building meaningful relationships with every student," Dwyer said. "When people ask what makes Taylor Prep special, my answer is always the same: it's our students and the dedicated staff who pour into them every single day."

For more information, call (313) 668-2100 or visit [www.nhaschools.com/schools/taylor-prep-high-school/en](http://www.nhaschools.com/schools/taylor-prep-high-school/en)





## From First Sizzle to Favorite Spot

Taylor diners embrace the unique flavors of Korean BBQ & Hot Pot

**W**HEN KPOT Korean BBQ & Hot Pot opened its doors nearly a year ago, excitement spread quickly throughout the community. Diners lined up eager to experience the fast-growing restaurant concept that combines interactive Korean BBQ with traditional hot pot dining — and from the very first week, it was clear Taylor was ready to embrace something new.

“Opening week was very exciting, and we received a lot of support from the community,” the KPOT team shared. “We had long wait times almost every night, with some guests already familiar with hot pot and Korean BBQ, and others trying it for the first time.”

For many guests, dining at KPOT was more than simply going out to eat — it was an introduction to a whole new experience. Tables filled with sizzling meats, steaming broths, fresh vegetables, noodles and endless sauce combinations created an atmosphere unlike anything else in the area.

“It was really fun to watch,” the staff said of those first-time visitors. “A lot of guests



had never tried Korean BBQ or hot pot before, so being able to guide them through the experience and see their reactions made it rewarding.”

That interactive element has become one of the restaurant’s biggest draws. Guests cook their own meals at the table, customize dipping sauces and experiment with different flavored combinations while sharing the experience with friends and family.

On a typical night, the restaurant buzzes with energy.

“The atmosphere is energetic, social and interactive,” they explained. “People are laughing, cooking together at the table, celebrating birthdays and just enjoying the experience. It’s more than just dinner — it feels like an event when people come in.”

Over the past year, KPOT has not only built a loyal customer base but also strengthened connections within the community. The restaurant has partnered with local groups, schools and events throughout the year and hopes to continue expanding those relationships in the future.

“We always enjoy supporting the local community and building relationships with organizations in the area,” Store Manager Anqi Lin said.

One of the most meaningful parts of the year has been watching guests return repeatedly.

“Probably seeing so many first-time guests turn into regular customers,” Lin said. “It’s rewarding when people come back often, bring their friends and recommend us to others.”

The restaurant’s growing popularity is also tied to its extensive menu. Some of the most requested Korean BBQ items include marinated beef short ribs, brisket, spicy pork belly, bulgogi beef and chicken, and shrimp. Hot pot fans gravitate toward the spicy broths, fresh vegetables, noodles, and the restaurant’s popular self-serve sauce bar that allows diners to personalize every bite.

For those who still haven’t visited, the team has a simple message: “Come hungry and be ready to try something different.”

As KPOT heads into its second year in Taylor, the excitement hasn’t slowed down. The team says they’re focused on improving service, introducing even more people to the dining experience and continuing to grow as part of the local community.

“We’ve learned a lot in year one, and we’re looking forward to building on that momentum,” said Lin.

After a year filled with sizzling grills, steaming hot pots and packed dining rooms, KPOT has proven to be more than a restaurant — it has become a gathering place where food, family, and community come together around the table.

KPOT Korean BBQ & Hot Pot is located at 21200 Penn Street in the old Wahlburgers location. It is open from noon-10:30 Sundays through Thursdays and from noon-11:30 on Fridays. For more information, call (734) 225-6505 or visit its website at [thekpot.com/locations/taylor-penn-street/](http://thekpot.com/locations/taylor-penn-street/).

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